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'ARAFAT GREETS FIGHTERS IN SOUTHERN LEBANON

JN081904Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1520 GMT 8 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Abu 'Ammar, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, has greeted the fighters in the south [of Lebanon] through the magazine PALESTINIAN AFFAIRS in its issue of today. Following is the text of the greeting:

To the great heroes, to the strugglers, to the makers of the fight of heroism and sacrifice, to all the comrades of arms in the trenches:

You have carried the banner despite all plots and plotters and plunged with it daringly into the furnace and fire so as to achieve for your revolution and nation immortal glories and to write for them a brilliant story in the record of history and time.

The big plot concocted by imperialism, Zionism and colonialism, headed by the United States, aims at exterminating you, eradicating your revolution, humiliating your people and degrading your nation. However, you were and still are the faithful trustees, so you faced the military offensive, fighting in defense of the soil of your nation and people in the Lebanese Arab south. Thus ideas have been turned upside down and old concepts long since settled in the minds [words indistinct]. They said that this enemy who is fully equipped with the most modern imperialist U.S. weapons is invincible. They also said that this army which protects their Zionist imperialist interests cannot be overcome. Then came the surprise--the legend which emerged from these heroic fights which you made when you faced the enemy despite small numbers and little equipment as well as the immeasurable differences in size and arms.

Through your proud stand and strong will [words indistinct] in southern Lebanon, you sprang up as against fighters waging a fierce war for 8 full days, giving lesson or even lessons to those who place their hands in the eagles' nests about how they should be responsible for the consequences of their acts. Is the plot over? Have the plotters stopped? They have not stopped and will not stop even though they assume different shapes and methods. They want to deal a blow to this revolution and its allies in the Lebanese nationalist forces, allies with the same destiny and in the same trench. They want to liquidate this issue so as to continue to implement their capitulationist solutions aimed at making our people and nation kneel and then become contained within the serious colonialist-Zionist imperialist plot.

What has happened in southern Lebanon is the beginning of a new and promising era. It is the time of revolutionary miracles for a generation of sacrifice, a generation of great heroes, a generation of strugglers and the comrades of Dadal [Palestinian girl killed in recent operation in Israel].

We pledge the pledge of men and strugglers that the march will continue and that the procession will move on in the burning kiln of the revolution, making events and writing glories (?describing) for the nation the glorious free life through this procession's bountiful giving and ceaseless sacrifices.

Our target is Palestine and dear Jerusalem. It is a target from which we will not deviate. With this Arab pride as exemplified in your weapons and with this belief with which your hearts abound [words indistinct] our Jerusalem to our free Arab Palestine.

Glory and immortality for our dutiful martyrs. It is a revolution until victory.

[Signed] Abu 'Ammar

PLO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETS IN BEIRUT UNDER 'ARAFAT

JN071712Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1510 GMT 7 Apr 78 JN

[Text] The PLO Executive Committee this morning held a meeting in Beirut under PLO Executive Committee Chairman and Commander in Chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces Abu 'Ammar.

The Palestinian news agency has learned that the conferees discussed the political and military situation and the latest developments of the Palestinian issue.

PLO EXECUTIVE, LEBANESE NATIONALIST MOVEMENT MEET

JN071420Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1345 GMT 7 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 7 April--An expanded meeting was held last night that included members of the PLO Executive Committee and the secretaries general of all the resistance fronts and members of the Political Council of the Lebanese Nationalist Movement. During the meeting the current situation in Lebanon and the conditions in southern Lebanon in particular were discussed.

PALESTINIANS CONFIRM THEY HOLD ISRAELI PRISONER, BODIES

JN071145Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1130 GMT 7 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 7 April--Palestinian sources confirmed here today the news that they are holding a wounded Zionist prisoner and four bodies of Israeli military personnel killed the day before yesterday in a clash with the joint forces near the south Lebanese city of Tyre. The sources said that contacts are currently underway with the International Red Cross regarding the prisoner and the four bodies. It has been learned that among the four bodies is that of a lieutenant colonel. Palestinian sources denied that the PLO has set any terms for the repatriation of the bodies and the prisoner.

Red Cross Contacts

JN081245Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1155 GMT 8 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 8 April--The International Red Cross today contacted the Palestinian revolution command in Beirut to determine the status of the members of the Zionist patrol who were caught in a joint forces ambush in the area of Ra's al-'Ayn in southern Lebanon last Wednesday.

The political editor of the Palestinian news agency (WAFA) reports that the Palestinian revolution command affirmed that it was not ready to discuss this subject unless the enemy authorities submit a list of the names of prisoners they hold and the martyrs who fell during their struggle against the barbaric aggression against southern Lebanon. Such a list can be compiled from the identity cards that were captured by the enemy forces.

The Palestinian news agency editor refuted reports of certain special demands made by the Palestinian revolution in return for the members of the patrol. He said that everything that had been reported so far is untrue and mere speculation.

On the other hand, WAFA has reported that among the members of the above-mentioned Zionist patrol is a Zionist officer with the rank of Major. [as received] It is known that several members of this patrol were killed while the rest were wounded.

Prisoner, Body Exchange Proposed

JN072024Y Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 7 Apr 78 JN

[Text] The PLO has announced that the Zionist soldier who was captured by the joint forces near Tyre in southern Lebanon will be released. A PLO official told the Italian news agency in Rome today that the bodies of the three [as heard] Israeli soldiers will be handed over to the enemy provided that the two fedayeen who survived the courageous operation near Tel Aviv on 11 March, in addition to the bodies of the members of the fedayeen unit who died during the operation, are returned.

INA: ZIONIST AUTHORITIES KILL TWO PALESTINIAN REPORTERS

JN081219Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1144 GMT 8 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 8 April--Palestinian sources announced here today that the Zionist occupation authorities have killed Palestinian journalists Ibrahim Mustafa Nasir and 'Abd al-Hafiz al-Asmar. The sources added that the two journalists were killed immediately after they were arrested at the entrance of Bint Jubayl on the first day of the Zionist aggression against southern Lebanon. When captured, the two journalists were already wounded and were on a purely journalist mission.

Journalists Nasir and Al-Asmar worked with the Palestinian news agency and have been missing since the beginning of the Zionist aggression.

Palestinians Mourn Death

JN081909Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1600 GMT 8 Apr 78 JN

[Text] The PLO Executive Committee, the Palestinian National Liberation Movement Fatah, the Unified Palestinian Information Media and the Palestinian Film Association mourn before the masses of our Palestinian people and Arab nation the hero martyrs Ibrahim Mustafa Nasir and 'Abd al-Hafiz Muhammad al-Asmar, who were killed by the Zionist forces during their breakthrough into Bint Jubayl in southern Lebanon.

The two strugglers were performing their duty as cameramen, recording the barbarism and savageness of the Zionist aggression against southern Lebanon. The Zionist forces liquidated them after they had already been wounded.

The PLO Executive Committee, the Fatah movement, the Unified Palestinian Information Media and the Palestinian Film Association, while mourning the two hero martyrs, pledges to all martyrs to continue on the road of the revolution and the march of struggle until aggression is defeated and victory achieved.

Official Condemns Killing

JN081257Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1240 GMT 8 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 8 April--Dr Farid Ayyar, secretary general of the Arab News Agencies Federation, has called on the UN Human Rights Committee and international information organizations to condemn and expose the Zionist enemy's crime of assassinating Palestinian journalists Ibrahim Mustafa Nasir and Muhammad al-Asmar. Commenting on this crime today, he said that this crime conflicts with basic human values.

Dr Ayyar pointed out that the Zionist military authorities killed the two Palestinian journalists after arresting them. They were already wounded as a result of the shelling of the area where they were filming the battled in southern Lebanon.

Palestinian sources announced earlier today the assassination of the two Palestinian journalists, who were arrested by the Zionist military authorities in southern Lebanon last month.

PLO OFFICIAL IN CAIRO REPORTEDLY GRANTED 'OPEN LEAVE'

JN080853Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0812 GMT 8 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 8 April--The PLO Executive Committee has granted an open leave to Sa'id Kamal, deputy chief of the PLO Political Department, who is currently in Cairo. The newspaper AS-SAFIR reports that this measure was adopted yesterday at a PLO Executive Committee meeting headed by Yasir 'Arafat.

The paper points out that the measure was taken in the wake of "his recent statements" in Cairo and his attendance at Arab League Council meetings "without official authorization."

Kamal Denies Report

NC091935Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1855 GMT 9 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 9 April--Sa'id Kamal, deputy chief of the PLO Political Department, has denied reports that he has been suspended from work and granted an open leave because he participated in the Arab League Council meetings held in Cairo at the end of March.

PLO sources in Cairo have stated that the PLO will participate in the Islamic foreign ministers conference in Dakar on 17 April. The PLO delegation will be headed by Faruq Qaddumi, chief of the Political Department, and will include as members Sa'id Kamal and Jamal as-Surani.

PFLP CALLS FOR VOLUNTEERS TO FIGHT IN SOUTHERN LEBANON

JN101214Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1144 GMT 10 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 10 April--The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] has called upon Arabs everywhere in the Arab world to volunteer for the battle of honor and dignity on the side of the joint forces of Lebanon against the Zionist enemy and its allies. The call came in a statement made today by Bassam Abu Sharif, the official spokesman of the PFLP.

Abu Sharif affirmed that the joint forces will continue to confront the Zionist invasion forces and that no obstacle whatever can stand in their way. He called upon the Palestinian masses everywhere to intensify their struggle.

Abu Sharif said that the enemy, who is reinforcing his positions and setting up strategic points in southern Lebanon in coordination with the fascist agents there, wants to liquidate the nationalist movement and the Palestinian resistance and to establish his domination on all of Lebanon.

Abu Sharif said that the current reality disproves all the false hopes which certain official Arab circles have attached to the UN Security Council resolution concerning southern Lebanon and calls for a more serious stand to confront the enemy.

KUWAIT

ARAB LEAGUE SECRETARY RIYAD BEGINS VISIT

LD071738Y Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 7 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Mahmud Riyad, secretary general of the Arab League, arrived this afternoon in Kuwait on a 2-day visit in the context of his current tour of Arab capitals. He was welcomed at the airport by Faysal as-Salih al-Mutawwa', director of protocol at the Foreign Ministry, and a number of senior officials of the ministry.

Riyad said in a statement to the KUWAITI NEWS AGENCY that the Arab summit is not an aim in itself, but a way to achieve the objective of joint Arab action to face the dangers of the increasing Zionist challenges. He said that his present tour of certain Arab countries is aimed at paving the way for the work of the Arab solidarity committee, whose formation under the chairmanship of President Ja'far Numayri was agreed on during the conference of Arab foreign ministers which was recently held in Cairo, and to knowing the views of Arab countries so that we can end Arab differences which only benefit the enemy. He added that the Sudanese president was still carrying out contacts with Arab countries in order to form this committee so that it can begin its work.

Received by Amir

LD081130Y Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 8 Apr 78 LD

[Summary] The amir received in his office this morning Mahmud Riyad, secretary general of the Arab League. The meeting was attended by the heir apparent and prime minister, Shaykh S'ad al-'Abdallah as-Salim as-Sabah, and the deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir as-Sabah. A spokesman for the amir's office said following the meeting "that the amir reviewed in detail with Mahmud Riyad the current Arab situation and the efforts aimed at restoring Arab solidarity." The heir apparent and prime minister this morning also received Mahmud Riyad. The meeting was attended by the deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

SAUDI ARABIA

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON TUNISIAN PREMIER'S VISIT

LD061357Y Tunis L'ACTION in French 30 Mar 78 p 4 LD

[Apparent text of Tunisian-Saudi communique following Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Nouira's visit to Saudi Arabia]

[Text] At the invitation of His Royal Highness Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, heir to the throne and deputy prime minister, His Excellency the Prime Minister of Tunisia Mr Hedi Nouira paid an official visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia from 26 through 29 March 1978.

The Tunisian prime minister was accompanied by Cultural Affairs Minister Mr Chedli Klibi, Secretary of State for the Plan Mr Mustapha Zaanouni and an important delegation of top civil servants and experts from different fields.

The prime minister received an audience with His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and conveyed to him a message from His Excellency President Habib Bourguiba in which he expressed all his esteem and friendship and good wishes for his health and success.

His Excellency Mr Hedi Nouira met with His Royal Highness Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, and the Tunisian prime minister paid a courtesy call on His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdullah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and head of the national guard.

An important working session was held in Al-Ma'dhar Palace in the afternoon of Sunday, 26 March 1978, which lasted for over 2 hours. On the Saudi side, those taking part were:

His Royal Highness Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, heir to the throne and deputy prime minister;

His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdullah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and head of the national guard;

His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister;

His Excellency Dr Rashad Fir'awn, personal adviser to his majesty the king;

His Excellency Shaykh Muhammad aba al-Khayl, minister of finance and the national economy;

His Excellency Shaykh 'Abd ar-Rahman al-'Amran, Saudi Arabian ambassador to Tunis.

On the Tunisian side those taking part were:

His Excellency Mr Hedi Nouira, prime minister;

Mr Chedli Klibi, minister of cultural affairs;

Mr Mustapha Zaanouni, secretary of state for the plan;

Mr Moussa Rouissi, Tunisian ambassador to Saudi Arabia.

During this working session bilateral relations were reviewed. The two sides noted that they are excellent, reflecting the mutual confidence and close solidarity characterizing the relationship between two fraternal countries both believing in the same ideals and the same values. They agreed to broaden the prospects for cooperation between them in the most diverse spheres. This cooperation will notably entail participation by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in numerous projects in the context of Tunisia's economic and social development.

A survey of current problems was carried out. Both sides noted the total similarity of views between them. They declared that they are particularly concerned by the flagrant Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon and mentioned the Palestinian combatants' courageous and dogged resistance to this aggression.

Tunisian Prime Minister Mr Hedi Nouira conveyed to His Royal Highness Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, deputy prime minister, his warm thanks for the welcome and hospitality which he received from the Saudi Government. He gave him an invitation to pay an official visit to Tunisia. This invitation was accepted, and the date will be fixed later.

KING KHALID RECEIVES PDRY INTERIOR MINISTER

JN091206Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1030 GMT 9 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Riyadh, 9 April--His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz this noon received PDRY Interior Minister Salih Muslih Qasim, who is currently visiting the kingdom, in his office at the Al-Ma'dhar Palace.

The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince and deputy prime minister; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and head of the national guard; His Royal Highness Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, interior minister; and Dr Rashad Fir'awn, special adviser to his majesty the king.

SAUDI, PDRY INTERIOR MINISTERS DISCUSS SECURITY

JN091207Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1150 GMT 9 Apr 78 JN

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 9 April--Interior Minister His Royal Highness Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and PDRY Interior Minister His Excellency Salih Muslih held a meeting this morning during which they discussed security cooperation between the kingdom and Yemen. The meeting also dealt with the theory of security integration in the Arab world, which His Highness Prince Nayif calls for and advocates.

PDRY Minister Makes Statement

JN091807Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1730 GMT 9 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Riyadh, 9 April--PDRY Interior Minister Salih Muslih has expressed the hope that his talks with His Royal Highness Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Saudi interior minister, will lead to the strengthening of relations between the two fraternal countries for their mutual benefit.

In an exclusive statement to SNA, Muslih said that his talks with His Royal Highness Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz were primarily concentrated on cooperation in the fields of security and police affairs. He expressed his thanks and appreciation for the warm reception accorded to him by His Royal Highness Prince Nayif as well as his thanks for the good care which PDRY nationals working in Saudi Arabia are receiving.

UAE

ARAB LEAGUE SECRETARY RIYAD ARRIVES, MAKES STATEMENT

JN082130Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1938 GMT 8 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 8 April--Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the UAE, will receive tomorrow morning, Sunday, Mahmud Riyad, the Arab League secretary general, who is currently visiting the UAE.

Riyad announced on arriving here tonight that he will acquaint Shaykh Zayid with the results of the talks he held with the kings and presidents of the Arab states he has visited during this tour--Syria, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Kuwait. He will also explain the Arab League's viewpoint on the current Arab situation and Arab moves. The secretary general added that he will exchange viewpoints with the UAE president on current Arab developments.

Soon after his arrival in Abu Dhabi tonight, Riyad met with the UAE minister of state for foreign affairs and exchanged viewpoints with him on all aspects of the current Arab situation and the efforts being exerted by the committee to restore Arab solidarity and resolve Arab differences. Speaking to the UAE NEWS AGENCY tonight, Riyad praised the UAE's role in backing Arab action. He said that the UAE has played a big national role in backing Arab action and that His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan has always been in the forefront in serving Arab interests and strengthening Arab ranks.

Riyad said that he is optimistic that the committee for restoring Arab solidarity will succeed in its task of convening an Arab summit conference in light of past experiences, which prove that Arab brothers always adopt a single stand when the nation is faced by great challenges. Riyad stressed the importance and inevitability of an Arab meeting at this stage when the Arab nation is facing Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon, and when Israel is still refusing to implement the UN Security Council resolution calling for its withdrawal from that area and is obstructing the implementation of that resolution.

Riyad said that the results of his talks in the countries he has visited so far have been positive and that everyone is aware of the gravity and seriousness of the situation and the need for an Arab meeting. Riyad said that it is not possible to set a date for an Arab summit conference because everything depends on the success of the efforts to remove all obstacles.

Riyad said that the proposed Arab summit will be preceded by contacts by the committee for restoring Arab solidarity and by bilateral contacts so as to prepare for the summit so that when it meets it will take positive action in light of the challenges facing the Arab nation.

Riyad said that he will report the results of his current talks to Sudanese President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri, chairman of the committee for restoring Arab solidarity, when he meets with him in Khartoum toward the end of the current tour.

Riyad called on the Arab states to forego their differences. These differences, he added, could harm the security and safety of the Arab states and joint Arab action.

Riyad praised the positive role being played by the gulf states to unify Arab ranks.

Received by President

JN091132Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1015 GMT 9 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 9 April--UAE President His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan today received Arab League Secretary General Mahmud Riyad, who is currently visiting the UAE in the course of a tour of a number of Arab states.

Following the meeting Riyad stated that he discussed with the UAE president the current Arab situation, the steps which should be taken to restore the solidarity and unity of the Arab ranks to confront the Zionist enemy and the dangers which threaten the Arab nation. Riyad also briefed his highness on the results of the contacts he held with the leaders of the Arab countries he visited.

Mahmud Riyad left Abu Dhabi for Muscat on a similar visit to Oman.

UAE TO JOIN COMMITTEE FOR RESTORING ARAB SOLIDARITY

JN082133Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1852 GMT 8 Apr 78 JN

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 8 April--The UAE today decided to join the committee for restoring Arab solidarity. This was announced by Rashid 'Abdallah an-Nu'aymi, minister of state for foreign affairs, who said that the decision followed contacts during the past 2 days between UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan and Sudanese President Muhammad Ja'far Numayri, chairman of the committee recently formed by the Arab League Council.

SUDANESE ENVOY, PLO REPRESENTATIVE RECEIVED

JN081437Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1405 GMT 8 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 8 April--Rashid 'Abdallah, UAE minister of state for foreign affairs, met here today with Uthman as-Samhuni [name as received], Sudanese ambassador to the UAE. During the meeting talks were held on the latest developments in the current Arab situation.

Rashid 'Abdallah also met with Ribhi Hallum, PLO representative in the UAE. In a statement following the meeting, Hallum stated that he had conveyed to Rashid 'Abdallah a written message from Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, on the latest developments in the Arab situation. He also reviewed with him the decisions adopted by the conference of the Arab foreign ministers regarding the restoration of Arab solidarity.

CABINET DISCUSSES CURRENT ARAB SITUATION

JN101050Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0950 GMT 10 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 10 April--The UAE council of ministers convened this morning under Deputy Prime Minister Hamdan ibn Muhammad. The cabinet discussed the various aspects of the current Arab situation and the efforts being exerted to restore Arab solidarity.

The cabinet also dealt with the contacts that have taken place between UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan and Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri, the chairman of the Arab solidarity committee. These contacts have resulted in the participation of the UAE in this committee.

The cabinet also discussed the bilateral contacts which were, and still are, being conducted by the UAE with a number of Arab countries to clear the Arab atmosphere, patch up the current rift and restore joint Arab action.

PLANNING MINISTER MEETS WITH HABIB BOURGUIBA, JR

JN081500Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1418 GMT 8 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 8 April--Sa'id Ghabbash, UAE planning minister, today met with Habib Bourguiba, Jr, private adviser to the Tunisian president, who is currently visiting Abu Dhabi.

During the meeting, which was attended by Abdelaziz al-Qassab [name as received], Tunisian ambassador to the UAE, a friendly talk was held and ways of strengthening economic ties between the two countries were discussed.

Bourguiba Leaves 9 Apr

JN090852Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0843 GMT 9 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 9 April--Habib Bourguiba, Jr, private adviser to his excellency the Tunisian president, left Abu Dhabi last night following a 5-day visit to the UAE. During the visit Bourguiba delivered a message to UAE President His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan from Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba dealing with the situation in Tunisia in the wake of the recent events there. He also discussed with officials the most important current Arab and international issues.

AS-SADAT, CEAUSESCU HOLD URGENT CONSULTATIONS

NC090755Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0705 GMT 9 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 9 April--AL-AHRAM reports today that President Anwar as-Sadat and Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu had urgent consultations during the past few hours, before the Romanian president's scheduled visit to the United States next Wednesday. The Romanian president will hold talks with President Carter on the Middle East crisis and other international issues.

The paper says that during this contact President as-Sadat was briefed on the results of the Romanian president's talks with Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan, in which President Ceausescu stressed the need for Israeli withdrawal from all Arab territories, the restoration of the rights of the Palestinian people and the establishment of a Palestinian state.

The Romanian president received an invitation to visit Israel. However, he insisted that the visit take place after Israel withdraws from the Arab territories.

AS-SADAT MESSAGE TO SIAD BARRE ON COUP ATTEMPT

NC091852Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 9 Apr 78 NC

[Text] President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat has sent the following cable to Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre:

Brother President Mohamed Siad Barre, president of the Somali Democratic Republic: We have received with satisfaction the news of the success of the Somali people and their armed forces in destroying the abortive coup attempt aimed at undermining the march of fraternal Somalia along the path of bolstering its national independence and facing outside interference from those who do not care about the interests of the Somali people and their prosperity.

In these moments when the Somali people are facing the most violent challenges with firm resolution and unconquerable will, I want to assure you of the Egyptian people's support for fraternal Somalia in its defiance of these challenges and their solidarity with it to attain their legitimate national rights. We are confident that these tribulations will strengthen the Somali people's cohesion, strength and determination to carry out their positive role in defending the strategic security of our glorious Arab nation and the struggling African peoples.

[Signed] Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat.

SOMALI FOREIGN MINISTER CONTACTS MOGADISCIO

NC091853Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1840 GMT 9 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 9 April--Somali Foreign Minister Abdurahman Barre, who is now in Cairo, today contacted the Somali Foreign Ministry to acquaint himself with the latest developments in the situation in the capital, Mogadiscio, following the failure of the coup attempt which took place today.

SOMALI AMBASSADOR IN CAIRO SAYS SITUATION NORMAL

NC0920400Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2014 GMT 9 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 9 April--The Somali ambassador in Cairo, Abdulrahim Farah, has described the abortive coup attempt which took place in the Somali capital at dawn today as "a crime against the rights of the Somali people."

In a statement to MENA today, the Somali ambassador said that this attempt was perpetrated by the enemies of the Somali people to undermine national unity in Somalia and to make the Somalis fight each other so as not to confront their real enemies.

Farah said that this abortive attempt means nothing to the masses of the Somali people, either to the military personnel or to the civilians. Proof of this is that they nipped this attempt in the bud a few moments after it began.

The Somali ambassador added that the attempt was made by a few persons who were influenced by the imperialist plots and propaganda which has been recently reiterating false allegations about anticipated coup attempts. The imperialists hoped that this attempt, which was carried out by their agents, would succeed. Somalia's ambassador in Cairo Abdulrahim Farah said that the embassy is in constant touch with the Somali Foreign Ministry and that conditions in Somalia are very normal now.

A Somali airline company plane arrived at Cairo airport on schedule this evening. Somali Foreign Minister Abdurahman Ama Barre is scheduled to leave Cairo for his country tonight after stopping over in Cairo on an unofficial visit.

KAMIL MEETS WITH SOMALI FOREIGN MINISTER

NC0907500Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 9 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil has met with Somali Foreign Minister Abdurahman Jama Barre. The discussion dealt with bilateral relations and current African issues, particularly the African efforts to solve disputes among African peoples within the African framework without foreign intervention and influence.

TEXT OF AS-SADAT INTERVIEW WITH OCTOBER MAGAZINE

NC0915150Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1330 GMT 9 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 9 April--President Anwar as-Sadat has declared that although the peace initiative has shaken Israel, Menahem Begin is still resisting world public opinion, especially Jewish, U.S. and European public opinion.

In his interview with OCTOBER magazine today, the president says that one of Menahem Begin's objectives is to drag us into peripheral problems and keep our minds completely off the main issue of the principles. However, he adds, I believe it is our duty to be a bit patient and to give him a chance to comprehend the initiative, which was sudden and which has exposed his intransigence and obstinacy.

President as-Sadat notes that Begin still has not grasped the dimensions of the initiative and has not understood to what extent the world has come to realize who wants peace and who is afraid of peace, who wants territory over the dead body of peace and who wants peace without dead bodies and without bloodshed.

The president calls on all states in the world, particularly the states and the peoples that have supported the initiative, to push and press for peace in the Middle East, because in matters of war and peace there is no such thing as eyewitnesses or spectators. Everyone is a party to war and to peace as well.

President Anwar as-Sadat talks about the U.S. role in connection with the cause of peace and reconciling the views of Israel and Egypt in pursuit of comprehensive peace. He emphasizes that the United States is now more qualified to play this role than any other time in the past, since President Carter now has all the minute details of the picture and the conflict.

President Carter, he says, is a man of principles and concern and this is why he is anxious to fulfill the principles of peace and honor every word he has said and every promise he has made to his people and the whole world. He adds that because he is so qualified and is a full partner in the Arab-Israeli conflict, President Carter can promote peace, which will never prevail in this region or in the world without the U.S. role.

The following is the text of President as-Sadat's interview with OCTOBER magazine:

Question: The swift meeting between you and the Israeli defense minister has opened the door to many interpretations and conclusions. Some are saying that Weizman is As-Sadat's favorite man, or that he is the desirable one as far as we are concerned, hinting that some are undesirable. It has also been said that As-Sadat wants to cause a rift within the Israeli Cabinet and also that Begin sent the defense minister to Cairo and the foreign minister to Europe so that the limelight will not be on one and not the other. It is said you are well aware of this game and this is why you have strongly welcomed Weizman at any time.

Answer: I have noticed this. The reason for these interpretations is perhaps the fact that I expressed my opinion of 'Ezer Weizman after my visit to Jerusalem. I met the man in Jerusalem after an accident [to Weizman], and I spoke with him. I then saw him in Ismailia and said he was a nice man and a jolly conversationist and that I like people like this who are both serious and merry. When I spoke about Moshe Dayan I said that during the Ismailia talks he was flexible and eager to find points of agreement and to defer discussion of the points of disagreement. Perhaps these remarks about the two men, and particularly about Weizman, were what prompted the press to see Weizman as the man I prefer to talk to. However, I know for certain that the final political decision will be made by Begin, which is natural. Speculation has abounded despite the fact that we announced what Weizman's visit was all about even before he arrived back in Israel and despite the fact that we said clearly that we were trying to activate the peace process although we had not reached an agreement on principles and although I went further by saying that I still had not received Begin's answer to my peace initiative. I do not believe that one can be more clear and open than this. However, I am not surprised by such speculation and will not be surprised by what the imagination of the analysts in the East or West may produce.

Question: When Begin became prime minister of Israel, you declared that Begin was the hawk of all hawks and that there were no doves and hawks in Israel but that they were all hawks. When you met with Ceausescu, he told you that Begin was a strong man, that an understanding could be reached with Begin and that if Begin became convinced, he would be able to convince his people of what he believed in.

Ceausescu's view was one of the reasons that hastened the decision on the initiative because it was enough for Begin to be convinced of peace to convince his people of it. Afterward, you met with Begin in Jerusalem and Ismailia and you held private meetings with him. Is your view of him the same as it was in the beginning or has it changed at last?

Answer: It was necessary for me to know a great deal about Begin. This is natural because he is a party to the cause of peace in the Middle East. Fate has dictated that I should sit with him, talk with him and get to know him intimately and that he also get to know me intimately.

His people must have elected him for certain qualities they find in him and for his ability to make decisions on crucial issues. The Israeli people with their various parties made complicated political calculations which ended up with the election of Menahem Begin. This is their affair and their decision. It was necessary for us to follow up on this, to keep a close watch on it and to base our calculations on what we see today and what we will see tomorrow.

Political leaders in Israel and the United States have admitted to me that the initiative caught Begin unprepared. He did not expect that it was possible. He was not prepared for peace at all because he is intransigent by nature and did not take into account that we would give him a choice between the land which he had occupied and permanent peace for the Israeli people.

There have been discussions in Israel about land and peace. Ben-Gurion's view was that peace is more important than land. Moshe Dayan and others hold the view that land without peace is better than peace without land. It seems that Menahem Begin wants both land and peace, although he has a lot of occupied land but does not have peace. Land has not given Begin peace. Bar-Lev did not give Israel security.

Although my initiative has shaken Israel--and this expression is theirs and not mine--Begin is resisting all of world public opinion, especially Jewish, U.S. and European public opinion. This is what makes me say that the peace initiative started as an Egyptian initiative and has become a universal initiative which I have nothing to do with now. It has become one of the landmarks of the age and one of its necessities.

To show concern for peace for the sake of our people and for the sake of all the world has become a moral, economic and political obligation. This has become the doctrine of millions of people. Perhaps one of Menahem Begin's objectives is to drag us into peripheral problems and to keep our minds completely off the main issue of the principles. However, I believe it is my duty to be a bit patient and to give him a chance to comprehend the initiative, which was sudden and which has exposed his intransigence and obstinacy. Let me give one example. In the speech he delivered in Ismailia, Begin described the 1967 war as a defensive war and said that in order to defend Israel they had occupied Sinai, the Golan Heights and the Gaza Strip.

I did not wish to comment on his speech. I felt that he was obliged to say this for party considerations, which are particularly important in Israel. I felt that the many party disputes and the complicated government coalition compelled him to say publicly what he did not say in private and that these were well-known political methods.

Despite all this--frankly and regrettably--Begin has not grasped the dimensions of the initiative. At the same time, he does not realize to what extent all the world knows who wants peace and who is afraid of it, who wants land on the corpse of peace and who wants peace without the need for corpses and blood.

There is nothing negative in the initiative if it is said that the initiative has exposed the Israeli Government. The world now knows that Israel was imagining things when it was saying that the Arabs wanted war and wanted to throw Israel into the sea. Israel was imagining things because we want peace and have offered it and I have gone far beyond what any man imagined in any age.

It was Ben-Gurion's dream to see a courageous Arab leader who would publicly announce his readiness to negotiate with Israel. He lived and died without seeing or hearing of such an Arab leader. What Ben-Gurion did was similar to what was done by the Greek philosopher who used to carry a lantern to look for a man in broad daylight.

I thus embarked on my initiative, which exceeded all bounds of imagination and revived the dreams of the people and made them believe that peace is possible, that life is a gift which we must take care of and that it is not necessary that there should be widows, orphans, blood, funerals and weeping and screaming in every house as long as we can achieve peace through justice for all.

Question: You say that there have been attempts to raise peripheral issues in order to divest us from the basic issue and that it is incumbent on us to be alert to these attempts. Can you recall anything which it would have been possible for us to fall into or which we might have unwittingly fallen into?

Answer: There are certain political tricks resorted to by men who are very adept in the art of maneuvering. These tricks are used to gain time or to make us waste our time. Or, perhaps, if they draw us into these tricks, we might go from one mistake to another. Mistakes would then be aggravated and the gap would widen between the parties. By so doing, we would have cooperated in creating extensive misunderstandings leading to a total lack of understanding.

For example, take what is being said to the effect that Weizman is a person whom I have chosen and that Begin sends him from time to time. Then they draw the conclusion that this action will produce long-term results. Or take what is being said--and I have read it--about Begin's seeking help from two men between whom there is no love lost because they are brothers-in-law--namely, Weizman and Dayan--and that by having adopted Weizman, I am trying to strike at Dayan or at Begin and so on and so forth until we reach the limit of surprising political imagination. Another example of this are certain expressions or objectives used by the Egyptian journalists which angered Begin. Begin, in turn, tried to convey these expressions or adjectives to Israeli public opinion or to world Jewish public opinion, although it is possible for us to find similar, or even worse things, written by their own writers. But the purpose of these writings is to draw us into a domain other than the one we have chosen for resolving our problems.

Begin has tried in some form to suggest that Carter's government does not want him or that Carter's government is pressuring the Israeli people into removing Begin from office. The reason for this is that Weizman was well received in the United States too. President Carter has announced that nobody has said any such thing and that he has nothing to do with Israel's domestic policy. The objective was to draw the United States into offending the feelings of the Israeli public by capitalizing on U.S. interference in the internal affairs of the Israeli people.

Even worse than these things is an issue which was raised at an early stage, namely, the issue of the Israeli settlements in the occupied territory and the differences which arose within the Israeli Government over these settlements--and the Israelis did indeed differ over the settlements. Some are of the opinion that it is necessary to establish more settlements at this time, that is, at a time when people are talking about the Cairo conference and the Political and Military committees. Others are of the opinion that there is no reason for building more settlements. In other words, the existing settlements should remain, and the idea of removing them is out of the question. In other words, the whole debate is over whether to be content with the number of settlements they have already set up until the situation crystallizes. Others are of the opinion that these settlements are of no military importance. The Bar-Lev line itself did not prevent our planes, rockets or infantry from penetrating it, fighting the Israelis and ultimately scoring victory.

On our side, we took up the issue of the settlements with the best of intentions. It absorbed us until it drowned us and we forgot the more important issue--withdrawal from all the occupied territory, not only the evacuation of the residents of these settlements or the demolition of dismantling of these settlements. There are some prefabricated houses which had been set up in these settlements, and it would be easy to dismantle them when the need arises. 'Ezer Weizman told me in Ismailia and he had told General al Jamasi that these settlements are of no military importance. Despite all the guarantees I have presented and announced, Begin is still in a state of great fear. His fear centers more on the West Bank, because it is his greatest problem. He is prepared to go to the furthest extent in reaching an understanding and agreement, except concerning the West Bank.

Question: Begin's attitude has not changed and neither has ours. We demand a declaration of principles and he rejects it. We believe that a solution to the Sinai problem would not take a long time but because we linked the Sinai issue with the Palestinian question, a solution to the questions of Sinai, Golan Heights, Gaza or the West Bank cannot be envisaged. What do we expect and what is the way to a solution? By sending Weizman or Dayan to us in the future, Begin might be attempting to tell the United States that he wants a direct link with Egypt. Despite this, no progress has been made. Indeed, you have said that there is no new ground yet for understanding with Begin. What is the situation now and what will happen next?

Answer: I have stated that my initiative is no longer an Egyptian initiative or that it is no longer the property of any one person. It belongs to the whole world and, therefore, the world is a party to it. I will go further yet and say that in issues of war and peace there are no witnesses or spectators. All of us are a party to these issues. If war breaks out it will spread, and if peace is established it will spread too.

What has happened in our case has shaken the world. Therefore, it is not right that the world should adopt the role of a spectator toward what is happening in the Middle East. The states and peoples which supported the initiative must give a thrust to the peace process and must exert pressure for the establishment of peace. Never in history has the conscience of the world been shaken as a result of an action which one person carried out on behalf of 40 million Egyptians as it was shaken as a result of my initiative. Some people have stated that I have risen with mankind to the moon and that Begin has taken mankind underground. The truth is that I have taken the people back to earth. The peace initiative is like the moon. It has illuminated the earth for us and has illuminated our hearts. The world has realized that we are serious and sincere. There can be no fear of the fact that the initiative has revealed our shining and sincere faces. It is the thieves, opportunists and deceivers who fear the light. Nothing of what we have done can be concealed. Everything has been done in the open. The words have been loud and have been uttered in Public. Even the whispers have had a resounding echo via the satellites. There is another opinion which says that I am like the first man who landed on the moon and that Begin is making desperate attempts to hide the moon or deny what has happened. How could we extinguish the light of the moon, and, if this were to become possible, how could we erase this from the minds of billions of the inhabitants of the earth who saw me at the same moment.

The solution is that the entire world should stand up and carry out its ethical duty for peace and justice. In the meantime, we must not stand by as spectators because this is primarily our issue. Therefore, we must be the first to take care of, defend and champion this issue. The United States has the largest role in the process of peace or in the preparation for it and achieving it in the end. The United States is not a referee in a game, a spectator or a volunteer mediator. The United States is a partner because it is the one which feeds Israeli, spends on it and defends it for special considerations. All of this is well known to the entire world.

Question: Mr President, you said quite some time ago that the cards of the game, or 99 percent of these cards, are in the hands of the United States. Many people have been annoyed by this term and consider it as canceling out the role of the Soviet Union, the Arab states and Egypt as well. They consider this term as a gamble on your part because you handed over the entire issue to the United States and left only one card for the world, the Arabs and Egypt. Do you still hold the same opinion?

Answer: I can even expand on this and say that 99.9 percent of the game is now in the hands of the United States. There is no reason why anybody should become angry, particularly if we go back to the political calculations to see how the events progressed and how they can progress today and tomorrow. Let us do now what we would do in the countryside when one wants to jump over a canal. The wider the canal, the further back one must go.

Let us go back and reconsider what we know, although we might forget it in the welter of events, comments, assessments and rumors. We say that the United States has a very special relationship with Israel. This is a fact. Had it not been for the United States, Israel would not have existed yesterday, today or tomorrow. This is another fact. These facts annoy the Israeli governments but they are facts. There are hundreds of examples which prove that Israel's heart beats in the United States, that is to say, that the lifeline comes from the United States.

When the October war broke out, the United States interfered and landed its forces. Kissinger told me that the United States would not permit an Israeli defeat. This is well known. Then, there was the bulge. We could have overcome this bulge and the 400 tanks and 10,000 soldiers who were there but Kissinger told me: The U.S. Defense Department will most certainly interfere.

When the first disengagement took place, the first line of the agreement referred to a U.S. proposal, any U.S. proposal, for the disengagement of the two sides. This was followed by the shuttle or step-by-step policy among the belligerent sides and Israel. Some defeatists and word merchants among the writers became philosophical and said: It is a bit of peace in exchange for a bit of land. There was another disengagement. All of these were the result of U.S. efforts in the first place.

Destiny willed that I should be a friend of many Arab and world leaders before the October War. This led to an Arab-European-African solidarity. This magnificent solidarity was my support in the war until our victory, a victory which nobody expected. There are many in Israel who are still groaning from the earthquake. The friendship between the United States and Egypt has been strengthened in the Nixon-Kissinger, Ford-Kissinger and Carter-Vance eras. The United States is now aware of all the details of the differences between Egypt and Israel or between the Arabs and Israel.

Preparations then began for the Geneva Conference in order to reach agreement on an overall peace after the step-by-step policy had ended. We were no longer asking for a disengagement, armistice or a partial agreement, but a comprehensive solution for all the issues.

I visited the United States in April 1977, and President Carter met at the end of the year with the Arab foreign ministers and the Israeli foreign minister.

Several obstacles emerged, most of which came on the part of Arabs against Arabs. Israel seized the opportunity to place more obstacles so that there would be no agreement or peace. President Carter even complained to me, saying: Do not involve me in your inter-Arab problems. Let me find a solution for your problems with Israel.

Then the problem of the agenda appeared, and it was the game of those well versed in the Arabic language. I decided to go to Geneva under any circumstances--with or without an agenda. What was important was for us to go, sit together and think of a solution.

During his visit to the Gulf in the wake of the peace initiative, President Al-Asad announced that they had not considered going to Geneva.

Had we continued to discuss going to Geneva or any other country, the shape of the table we would sit around, whether there would be one or more tables, the flag under which we would sit and the form of the Arab delegation or the Arab delegations, all these things would have taken a very long time, without us achieving a single solution.

My initiative was made to shorten this time, which we could have possibly wasted, as we have wasted scores of years. The U.S. world and Israeli reaction followed. All these things are well known and I need not repeat them.

I only need to remind others of these things while I am talking about the U.S. role in the cause of peace or the U.S. role in reconciling the views of Israel and Egypt in quest of a comprehensive peace. I affirm that the United States now is more fully "qualified" for this role than in the past because President Carter has all the minute specifics of the picture and all the details of the dispute--and he has taken courageous stands.

Moreover, Carter is a man of principles and ethics--and he has announced this in his book "Why Not the Best". Thus, Carter devoted his attention to the achievement of the principles of peace, to every word he had said and to all the promises to which he had committed himself before his people and before the whole world.

Through these qualities and through having this complete background of the problem and because he is a full partner in the Arab-Israeli conflict, he can achieve peace. Without the U.S. role there will be no peace in this area or in the world. If the number 99 percent annoys some of the big or the small, then I am prepared to make it 50 percent or 60 percent, on the condition that someone can show me who can carry out the remainder and when and where this has happened. Egypt and the entire Arab nation have been subjected to tribulations with Israel--and only the United States has appeared as the one capable of moving situations forward, bringing them to a climax and also resolving them. The United States now is more capable of solving the problem than in the past.

Question: When the United States sincerely wants something, it does not lack the means for finding a solution, as happened in Lebanon. This is so because the Security Council approved Israel's immediate withdrawal and the dispatching of UN emergency forces. The United States wanted this to happen quickly and it got what it wanted. Why, therefore, has the United States so far been unable to achieve this in the dispute between us and Israel?

Answer: This is precisely what I wanted to say. The United States quickly submitted a draft resolution to the Security Council and the whole world endorsed it, with the exception of the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia. This is surprising. We must not take Czechoslovakia into account, because it had been ordered to make an objection and it did so. But it is very surprising that the Soviet Union should make an objection, and to what? Is it objecting "to the cessation of hostilities," "to the immediate withdrawal," "to the UN secretary general's submitting a report within 24 hours," "to the stopping of bloodshed," "to Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon" and "to the protection of the Palestinian people"?

If this is the stand of the Soviet Union, which is a great state which fills the world with statements to the effect that it is the number one supporter of the Arab cause, and if this is the attitude of the Soviets toward Israel's occupation of more land and the shedding of more blood, then what can we expect of this state while we are demanding Israel's evacuation from all the occupied territories and the establishment of a homeland for the Palestinian people?

We hope the United States will do something similar to what has happened so rapidly in Lebanon in order to solve the conflict in the Middle East.

Nevertheless, it is our duty to admit that the Arab-Israeli conflict is extremely complicated because it is multilateral, because the issues for which a solution is sought are complicated and because the Arabs are divided.

It is ridiculous that there are rejectionists--and to this moment I do not know what they are rejecting. Do they reject a solution or seeking a solution, or do they reject everything Egyptian, even if this thing were to be more in their favor that in Egypt's favor?

Then, what has happened to this rejection? The rejectionists are now rejecting one another because there are the rejectionists and the rejectionists of the rejectionists.

It is indeed shameful that the destinies of the peoples should become hollow words and foolish slogans. If the leaders are tampering with the destinies of their peoples, then what is the difference between loyalty and treason, partisanship and patriotism, and patriotism and servility? I regret to say that what I now see before me causes sorrow and grief.

Despite all these things, we must rise above grief and sorrow. This is so because the peoples live longer than their leaders and truth lives longer than falsehood. We have tried lying to ourselves and we have tried rancor and suspicion. Now the hour has struck for being truthful to and at peace with ourselves and with others. We must not place the brunt of the burden on the United States, despite the fact that its role is important. However, we must not cease moving forward and building bridges. because this is a trust and an honor.

Question: You have told Israel, through the United States, that the presence of one Israeli soldier on Lebanese territory would be an obstacle to peace, and Weizman told you that Israel would not leave a single Israeli soldier on Lebanese territory after the UN forces take up their positions. What has been achieved so far, for all parties, and will Israel return to bargaining now that it has added one more state to the confrontation states?

Answer: I denounce the killing of innocent people. I have already said this, but the Israeli aggression and annihilation of the Palestinian people have been dondemened by the whole world. Israel has achieved nothing, a 5-km or even a 10-km belt has not brought Israel the security it wants. There are no secure borders any more. We disproved the secure-borders theory in the October war. Furthermore, in addition to the fact that this aggression has not and never will achieve security for Israel, it will never destroy the Palestinian resistance. On the contrary, it will increase the bitterness and anger of the Palestinians. This means that Begin has not fulfilled his two original objectives, which are achieving security and destroying the resistance. It appears that Begin had not imagined that the Security Council would adopt its resolution so quickly. The war in Lebanon has once again exposed Begin's real intentions. Also, the Israeli aggression against Lebanon has exposed the Soviet Union and the states which call themselves the rejection states and which had pledged to protect the Palestinian people. They neither stopped the Israeli aggression nor supported the resistance. In fact, Syria announced that it refused to supply arms to the resistance, and thus deserved Israel's profound gratitude. I know exactly and in detail why Syria stopped the supply of arms to the Palestinians and why it announced it.

Question: You said in a previous interview that it would be useless to hold a summit conference and you explained why, and this torpedoed the conference even before it started. Yet, you have declared support for such a conference and said that Husni Mubarak would attend it on your gehalf and that he would be supplied with all the documents and facts. What new development has occurred in the Arab situation to make you finally agree to the convening of a summit conference?

Answer: Nothing new, but I did say from the beginning that I had no objection to such a conference any time and any place, although I did say that it would be futile, because what could we say at such a conference. Reveal our cards, attack each other, confirm Arab humiliation and let Israel fish in troubled waters? Also, what more could the kings and heads of state, if they come, request than what Egypt has already requested in Israel, the United States and Europe and in a hundred press conferences and international television interviews in Cairo and in European and American capitals. Why the disagreement and why the rejection? Furthermore, what have the rejection states been able to do in their first test--Israel's invasion of Lebanon? Despite all this, I have asked Sudanese Vice President ar-Rashid at-Tahir to assure President Numayri that I fully support every step he takes for convening a summit conference. I have no objection to Arab solidarity because solidarity is hope. But I must say now that everyone must know his size, exactly--and I believe that they all know very well--and that I fully reject any attack on Egypt, for everyone of them owes Egypt something and will not be able to repay it to the last day of his life. I am not boasting here of favors to anyone. I am just putting on record what is historically known and what people often forget.

Question: You proclaimed a green revolution and went to the desert and all Egypt's programs, plans and hopes went with you. Is the reason for this the fact that the peace issue has preoccupied us more than necessary and that we must occupy ourselves with something else or do you believe that the peace question will take a long time and that we would be wasting our time and energy if we were to stop all other aspects of life in anticipation of new ideas from Tel Aviv or Washington?

Answer: I have read that some analysts who claim to know everything have claimed that I directed my attention to the invasion of the desert in order to divert the people's attention from the peace initiative and that I am trying to divert the attention of the people from the very complicated external affairs. This is strange because how could a person divert the attention of the people from their daily problems--the loaf of bread, communications, telephones, high cost of living, merchants' greed and administrative and commercial corruption? Nobody can divert the attention of the people from the daily needs of life. We could divert their attention from luxuries but to divert their attention from wanting to breathe air and drink water is strange. I would have understood if it were claimed that problems of foreign policy were raised to divert the people's attention from the problems of daily life, although this too is impossible because the problems of peace cannot be separated from our economic and social problems. Moreover, the invasion of the desert means the transfer of the people's living problems to other places preparatory to solving them. Our land is limited and our people are increasing. The cities are marching on the green land. Instead of building houses and establishments in the desert, the people find it easier to build them on cultivated land. This is a recurring mistake which we must stop. Many states consider it a crime to cut down a tree. How can we allow a field to be turned into fallow land or a park to be turned into a building.

The Western Desert has millions of feddans which are suitable for cultivation. We have the waters of the Nile and we have subterrenean water. The climate is splendid. What is it that Egypt lacks?

All we lack is the effort of man, a man who works. We are many, thank God. If there is water under our feet, God has hidden treasures under our skins. We are the manpower which can work. We have the desert, which we must cultivate, and we will inevitably possess all we want. A law will be issued increasing the maximum limit of agricultural land that can be owned in the Wadi al-Jadid in deference to the laws which limit ownership in the old valley. This is to encourage the pioneers among the desert invaders, the pioneers of the green revolution--the third revolution, of April 1978, which comes after the 15 May 1971 revolution and 23 July 1952 Revolution.

I was pleased to find out that a university professor who is a member of the national council has built a farm for himself in Al-Wahat al-Bahriyah and decided to live happily there following his success and the example he set for other citizens. We do not want the tragedy of the At-Tahrir directorate to be repeated with all its shortcomings. It cost more than 500 million pounds, and its revenue is 11 million pounds. We will prepare records and plans for all the projects we need and we will submit them to the world. Let any individual or international company that wants to participate in the exploitation of our wealth come forward. Egypt's arms, eyes, mind and heart are open. The prophet of God was right when, after returning from one of the battles, he said: We have returned from the small struggle to start the big struggle. When he was asked about the big struggle, he said: It is the struggle within ourselves.

We must begin the struggle within ourselves and must work. First we must arm ourselves with hope. Egypt is ours and we can make it a paradise for all the world. It was once the cradle of the great civilization.

Egypt is not ashamed of what it is suffering from, of what it is facing or of what it wishes for itself and for others. It is not a matter of shame that we are 40 million, but it is a matter of shame if we become a burden on ourselves. We have all the potential but it is lying idle. There are people who only are selling their sun, or air or their rivers and seas, but we have water, air and land and we have immense manpower.

Also, I have found hundreds of projects which have been shelved by frustrated and despairing owners. These projects and their owners must come back to life. Egypt, which does not kill an opinion or anyone who thinks, does not bury an idea or a theorist.

A great renaissance is awaiting us. Hand in hand and with peace and love we should march on the desert and turn it green. The United States did that when it marched to the West. It is now the richest and strongest state in the world. We are working on all fronts, the fronts of peace and the fronts of food security--security against hunger, poverty and unemployment. Egypt needs all its sons, who must learn and work in its lands, deserts, waters, fields and factories.

As of tomorrow, I will start visiting the remaining part of the Western Desert. I will lay my fingers on the sources of life and the mineral treasures. God has given us a lot but we know so little about it. However, with hope and work what is little will become plentiful, what is yellow will become green and the hot winds of war will become a gentle breeze of peace for all of us.

Then there will be no food crisis and we will not suffocate ourselves in the narrow valley. Then every person will prove himself and achieve his ambition. The sum total of what every Egyptian will achieve will be a cause of strength and prosperity for Egypt.

SPOKESMAN DENIES REPORT ON U.S. MIDEAST PLAN

NC081821Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1805 GMT 8 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 8 April--An official spokesman today denied a report in the New York TIMES and the Los Angeles TIMES, citing what they described as informed Egyptian sources, that during their talks at Camp David President Carter had promised President as-Sadat that he would submit a comprehensive U.S. plan for a settlement in the Middle East after the Congress concludes its deliberations on the Panama treaty. The official spokesman affirmed that no such statements have been made by any Egyptian official and consequently such a report is mere speculation.

JORDANIAN OFFICIAL SAYS KING HUSAYN TO VISIT EGYPT

NC092252Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2245 GMT 9 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 9 April--Jordanian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hasan Ibrahim has stated that King Husayn of Jordan will visit Cairo in the next few days. The Jordanian minister stated this on arrival in Cairo tonight for a 1-day visit. Hasan Ibrahim also said that he is carrying a message to President as-Sadat from King Husayn connected with the action program Jordan has proposed for discussion at the proposed Arab summit conference.

VANCE REMARKS ON ISRAELI USE OF U.S. ARMS CRITICIZED

NC080731Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 8 Apr 78 NC

[From the press review]

[Text] In his daily article in the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH, Kamil Zuhayri comments on U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance's statements on Israel's violation of a secret agreement with the United States regarding the use of American weapons in its invasion of Lebanon. At the beginning of the article Zuhayri points out that diplomacy has rules and a special language that is characterized by the choice of delicate words. All of this is understood. But it is harder to understand why Cyrus Vance spoke with extreme care and skill and raised his finger to make accusations against Israel, but soon put his finger down.

After Israel destroyed the villages of southern Lebanon without discrimination and F-15 planes attacked Ad-Damur near Beirut, leveling whole areas to the ground including Al-Awza'i quarter west of Beirut, and then went as far as the Tripoli area in the north, and after news agencies carried pictures of the destroyed areas and houses and the thousands of refugees who moved from the south to the north, the U.S. secretary of state finally raised his finger, but he did not complete his sentence. Vance said that Israel may have violated the agreement which it and the United States signed in 1952 by using U.S. weapons in its invasion of southern Lebanon.

The writer expresses the opinion that following the fascist invasion of southern Lebanon, the United States was expected to take clear and effective steps to put pressure on Israel. However, all that has happened is that the U.S. secretary of state made this strange diplomatic statement.

This shows that the United States, which supplies Israel with weapons worth millions of dollars, has decided not to impose an embargo or even to blame Israel. Vance remained silent for a long time and then made his strange statement. He did not wish to censure Israel or protest its action, but defended it on the pretext of safeguarding the peace negotiations. He did this despite the fact that peace has nothing to do with border violations, destruction of villages, making people homeless, bombing residential quarters, rumors about withdrawal and threats of renewed aggression.

AS-SADAT SENDS MESSAGE TO ROTARY CONFERENCE

NC071321Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 7 Apr 78 NC

[Text] President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat has affirmed that Egypt believes that a just peace is the only way to achieve the development and enhancement of man in the Middle East and that this belief led him to undertake his peace initiative. President as-Sadat added that Egypt is doing its utmost to insure the success of the initiative and to achieve its objectives and that giving an impetus to the peace process requires patience.

President as-Sadat expressed his pride for the support received from people all over the world for the initiative. He expressed confidence that peace will prevail in the world.

In a message addressed to the 42d International Rotary Conference, which began its activities in Alexandria yesterday, President as-Sadat said that he asks God to insure that peace prevails in the world and he added that mighty efforts will be directed toward providing food and security instead of guns and tanks for the people.

In his message, which was delivered by the governor of Alexandria, the president referred to Egypt's problems, saying that they are many and varied and that they need the cooperation of all forces and the application of all scientific, technical and professional techniques to reach local solutions for them. President as-Sadat praised the role of the Rotary clubs, which give a special attention to the youth, the hope of the future and the leaders of tomorrow, and try to instill in them values, ethics and ideals to govern their conduct. President as-Sadat also praised the Rotary's principles and ideals, which are based on the pride of every member in his activity. This is what we call for in Egypt.

U.S.-EGYPTIAN ENERGY COMMITTEE TO BE FORMED

NC080822Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0755 GMT 8 Apr 78 NC

[Excerpt] Cairo, 8 April--It has been decided to form a joint U.S.-Egyptian higher committee. The committee will undertake to discuss and assess sources of energy in Egypt preparatory to drawing up a final and comprehensive report on its findings next August. The results of the report will be submitted to Presidents Anwar as-Sadat and Jimmy Carter. The above was reported in AL-AHRAM this morning.

ARAB LEAGUE'S RIYAD LEAVES AMMAN, MAKES STATEMENT

JN071239Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 7 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Arab League Secretary General Mahmud Riyad left Amman this morning for Kuwait at the end of a 2-day visit to Jordan during which he met with King Husayn and a number of officials.

In a statement to the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY correspondent at the airport before leaving Amman, Riyad said his visit to Jordan was beneficial and successful, particularly since he met with King Husayn and became acquainted with the king's positive views, which are in favor of Arab interests.

Riyad praised King Husayn's efforts in support of Arab solidarity and said: I have reached an understanding with King Husayn on what the Arab League should do regarding coordination and solidarity among the Arab countries to confront the common danger.

Riyad was seen off at the airport by Information Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, Interior Minister Sulayman 'Arar, a number of high-ranking officials and a number of Arab ambassadors in Amman.

ENVOYS WITH MESSAGES BEGIN TOUR OF ARAB STATES

JN091259Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Jordanian envoys today began a tour of the Arab capitals to deliver messages from His Majesty King Husayn to the Arab kings and presidents. The messages explain the Jordanian working paper in which Jordan sees a solution for the issues which jeopardize Arab solidarity and ranks and which Jordan finds necessary to be introduced at the proposed Arab summit conference.

Ash-Sharif 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, arrived in Riyadh today and met immediately after arrival with His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and conveyed to his majesty a message from his brother King Husayn. The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince and first deputy prime minister. Ash-Sharif Sharaf will also visit Kuwait and Syria.

Sulayman 'Arar, minister of interior, left Amman today for Baghdad as part of a tour which includes Iraq, the YAR, the PDRY, Somalia and Sudan.

Envoys Continue Missions

JN100816Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 10 Apr 78 JN

[Text] The Jordanian envoys continue their tour of Arab capitals to convey messages from His Majesty King Husayn to the Arab heads of state. The messages contain the outlines of a working paper which Jordan considers a solution to the problems threatening Arab solidarity and which Jordan thinks must be submitted to the proposed Arab summit.

Ash-Sharif 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, arrived in Kuwait last night from Riyadh to convey His Majesty King Husayn's message to his brother the amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah.

Ash-Sharif Sharaf had met in Riyadh with His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia and conveyed a message from his brother, His Majesty King Husayn. Ash-Sharif Sharaf will also visit Syria.

In Baghdad, Jordanian Interior Minister Sulayman 'Arar yesterday conveyed a message from His Majesty King Husayn to his brother President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr of Iraq. 'Arar had arrived in Baghdad yesterday in the course of a tour which will take him to also to the YAR, the PDRY, Somalia and Sudan.

Hasan Ibrahim, minister of state for foreign affairs, yesterday arrived in Cairo in the course of a tour during which he will visit Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco and Mauritania. Ibrahim will convey to the heads of these states messages from His Majesty King Husayn.

Message to President Sarkis

JN080855Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0815 GMT 8 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 8 April--The newspaper AL-AHRAR, mouthpiece of the [Lebanese] rightist National Liberals Party, reports that a high-level Jordanian envoy will visit Lebanon within the next 48 hours. The paper adds that the Jordanian envoy is carrying a message from Jordan's King Husayn to Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis including the agenda which Jordan has proposed for the forthcoming Arab summit conference.

Message to President al-Asad

JN080644Y Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 8 Apr 78 p 1 JN

[Text] Exclusive to AR-RA'Y--Damascus--His Excellency ash-Sharif 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, will arrive in the Syrian capital today or tomorrow on a short visit to Syria. During the visit he will meet with His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad to convey a message from His Majesty King Husayn.

The visit comes in the course of the Jordanian move to bolster Arab solidarity in confronting the dangers which surround the Arab nation at the current stage.

Messages to Saudis, Kuwaitis

JN091440Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1255 GMT 9 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Riyadh, 9 April--His Excellency 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf, chief of the Jordanian Royal Court, left Riyadh this afternoon for Kuwait after a brief visit to Saudi Arabia. His Majesty King Khalid received Sharaf this morning. It should be recalled that Sharaf arrived in Riyadh this morning on a short visit within his current tour of the area.

Message to Iraq

JN101040Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0840 GMT 10 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 10 April--Jordanian Interior Minister Sulayman 'Arar, the personal envoy of King Husayn of Jordan to President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr, left Baghdad this morning. 'Arar said that he had the good opportunity to meet with President al-Bakr and to convey King Husayn's message to him. He said that he heard the president's viewpoints on the current Arab situation and the problems facing the Arab nation at this critical time.

AD-DUSTUR EXPLAINS DIPLOMATIC MOVES, SUMMIT POLICY

JN100834Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 10 Apr 78 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Other Dimension of the Jordanian Political Moves," the newspaper AD-DUSTUR says: It is wrong to understand the current Jordanian activity on the Arab level as an attempt to persuade the Arabs to convene a summit conference. Jordan believes that what is needed is a plan for unified Arab action to confront Israeli occupation, expansion and arrogance with a mobilization of the Arabs' enormous but as yet scattered power.

If the presentation and approval of this plan of action leads to a summit conference, then this conference will have a clear and specific objective as well as a clear and specific plan of action before it. The summit conference is not a tribal truce meeting in which leaders settle their differences, but a venue for discussing crucial issues affecting our future in light of the current conditions and solving these issues within a national framework, regardless of the different ideologies and social and economic systems in the Arab countries and without the need to set up trials for any previous political practices such as President as-Sadat's initiative and the Arab reaction to it.

If what happened in southern Lebanon was a clear example of Israel's expansionist designs in their military and nonmilitary forms, then the Arab reaction to what happened there should serve as a warning to the countries neighboring on Israel and which are directly exposed to Israeli expansion to take the matter seriously and to take action in order to make the Arabs forego their differences and concentrate on the main conflict by mobilizing all their power in accordance with a clear and well-studied plan. This power can at present and at any time curb Zionist expansion and return Israel to its true size.

We know that the Jordanian move will not be an easy task. There are many and great hardships, and Jordan may not be able to secure Arab unanimity on unified action. But this does not mean that we should do nothing.

PREMIER BRIEFS CABINET ON TALKS WITH LIBYANS

JN091754Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 9 Apr 78 JN

[Text] At the cabinet meeting today, Prime Minister Mudar Badran presented to the ministers the results of his visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and of the talks he held with Libyan President Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and senior Libyan officials. He said that the talks dealt with an evaluation of the current Arab situation in light of inter-Arab relations and the challenges facing the Arab nation. The talks also dealt with bilateral relations and the means to promote and develop them in the interests of the two countries within the framework of the conviction by both sides that Arab solidarity and joint Arab action must be strengthened so as to build Arab strength to face the dangers against the Arab nation and to achieve progress and prosperity for the Arab people.

OFFICIALS COMMENT ON ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL PLAN

Al-Huss Comments

NC080802Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 8 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Asked about reports on a two-phased partial Israeli withdrawal from the territories it is occupying in southern Lebanon, Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss said: This is not what Lebanon wants nor is it what has been stipulated by the UN Security Council resolution. We demand a complete Israeli withdrawal from Lebanese territory and we shall continue our efforts, endeavors and pressures until this is achieved. The land is ours and we shall not accept anything less than the expeditious return of all of it to us.

However, the Israeli methods of procrastination, complication of matters and prevarications are known. Our awareness of these methods will certainly frustrate them. We are strong in our position. We derive our strength from the frankness and clarity of our right to our land. The backing of our Arab brothers is the best support for us, and our international friendships are the best assets for our cause. The UN Security Council resolution is the best expression of international support for the Lebanese issue. We shall continue to pool all our resources and capabilities in every sphere until a complete Israeli withdrawal from our territory is achieved.

Butrus Comments

NC071236Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 7 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Upon leaving Bustrus Palace [the Foreign Ministry headquarters], Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus made a statement expressing his views on the UN statement regarding the Israeli withdrawal from Lebanese territory on 11 April. He said: I have not yet seen the official text of the statement made by the UN spokesman in Jerusalem regarding the Israeli withdrawal from the south. According to the information I have, a partial withdrawal will take place early next week. This is what I know so far. However, I cannot consider this final until I have received more information.

Asked if General Siilasvuo will visit Lebanon soon, Minister Butrus replied: Maybe.

Sham'un Comments

NC091450Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1215 GMT 9 Apr 78 NC

[Excerpt] In a statement to the Voice of Lebanon, former President Camille Sham'un has pointed out that some people still view important issues with one eye closed without looking closely at events and their causes. He gave as examples the statements of the UN secretary general and also the EEC on southern Lebanon.

Dr Waldheim, former President Sham'un said, is opposed to phased Israeli withdrawal and the EEC and the Lebanese prime minister have protested [against the Israeli plan]. He added: We are not in disagreement with all this, but we still have not heard anyone objecting to the Palestinian armed presence, which is the cause of the problems of the south and the southerners.

We would have liked these three sources at least to utter a word of protest against the aid for the Palestinians, the Palestinian chaotic armed presence and the armed infiltration of Iraqi and Libyan groups. All these are serious matters which will grow and become more serious with the days.

President Sham'un added: Requesting Israeli withdrawal is axiomatic and we are all agreed on it. Even school children know this and realize that such withdrawal is a must. However, the factor which continues to threaten the south and the entire area, namely the Palestinian presence, still remains. The question is: Why do the United Nations, Washington, the EEC and the Lebanese prime minister himself not mention this presence. Why do they overlook it as an original cause of the problem?

OFFICIALS MEET WITH AMBASSADORS, OTHER LEADERS

Al-Huss Meets 'Arafat's Adviser

NC071956Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 7 Apr 78 NC

[Text] At his home in Ad-Dawhah this evening Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss met with Hani al-Hasan, political adviser to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. Discussion during the 90-minute meeting centered on developments in the situation in the south, particularly those pertaining to facilitating the implementation of the UN Security Council resolution.

This meeting is part of the series of the meetings which the prime minister is holding with the various parties interested in the situation in the south with a view to facilitating the stationing of the UN forces in preparation for realizing the withdrawal of the Israeli forces.

Al-Huss Meets Saudi Ambassador

NC081258Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 8 Apr 78 NC

[Text] At 0900 today Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss met with Saudi Ambassador to Lebanon Gen 'Ali ash-Sha'ir at the Information Ministry. During the 1-hour meeting they reviewed developments in the situation in the south. This meeting is part of a series of meetings Prime Minister al-Huss has been holding with Arab and other ambassadors in order to facilitate the implementation of the UN Security Council resolution and achieve an Israeli withdrawal. After the meeting Ambassador ash-Sha'ir declined to make any statement.

Butrus Meets Soviet Ambassador

NC081300Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 8 Apr 78 NC

[Text] On the diplomatic level Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus today continued to discuss developments in the area and the implementation of the UN Security Council resolution. Within this context the foreign minister met for 1-hour with Soviet Ambassador to Lebanon Soldatov.

After the meeting the Soviet ambassador said that the discussions dealt with the general situation in the area. Regarding his country's views on the situation in southern Lebanon, the ambassador said: We have previously declared our stand denouncing the aggression and demanding the immediate withdrawal of Israeli forces from the south. He said that he is always optimistic.

Sarkis Meets British Ambassador, Others

NC101022Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 10 Apr 78 NC

[Text] At 1030 today President Ilyas Sarkis received the British ambassador in Cairo, Peter Wakefield. In the morning his excellency received the army commander, Staff Brig Gen Victor Khuri, and the head of the Lebanese Red Cross, Alexandra 'Issa al-Khuri.

Following the 1-hour visit, Wakefield made a statement in which he said: We held a general discussion. It is natural that this discussion should include the general security situation. In answer to a question, the British ambassador said that the partial Israeli withdrawal from the south will take place tomorrow. He denied that he had conveyed any message to President Sarkis.

President Sarkis also met with [Phalangist leader] Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil at 1130.

Al-Huss Meets Algerian Envoy

JN071251Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1243 GMT 7 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 7 April--Lebanese Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss today met with Mohamed Yazid, Algerian ambassador to Lebanon. They discussed the developments of the situation in southern Lebanon in the aftermath of the Zionist invasion of southern Lebanon.

MINISTRY DENIES AL-HUSS TO VISIT AN-NABATIYAH

NC091238Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 9 Apr 78 NC

[Text] A source in the Information Ministry has denied press reports that Prime Minister al-Huss will make an inspection visit to An-Nabatiyah and Hasbayya. The source said no date has been set for such a visit.

LEBANESE ARMY UNIT TO ASSIST UN FORCES IN SOUTH

NC081255Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1215 GMT 8 Apr 78 NC

[Text] It was reported today that about 500 Lebanese officers and men will proceed to the south in the next 48 hours to assist the UN forces in their mission. This measure is being taken in response to a request from the commander of the UN forces in the Middle East, General Siilasvuo. during a meeting he held recently with the minister of of defense and the army commander. The Lebanese force will leave for the south from the Ablah post under the command of Capt Kamal Karam.

UNIFIL DEPUTY COMMANDER ARRIVES FROM TOULOUSE

NC091800Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Apr 78 NC

[Text] The deputy commander of the United Nations Interim Forces in Lebanon [UNIFIL], Brig Gen Jean-Paul Cuq of France, arrived in Beirut from Toulouse on board a special plane this evening. He declared that the UNIFIL mission in Lebanon is to implement UN Security Council Resolution 425.

NEW ISRAELI FORCES REPORTEDLY IN AL-BAZURIYAH

NC080655Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 8 Apr 78 NC

[Text] While talk continues about Israeli withdrawal from the south, an atmosphere of cautious calm prevailed yesterday in the border areas. There had been reports that Israel was dispatching new vehicles and forces to Al-Bazuriyah area to take up positions on the hills northeast of that area.

In reply to a question by the UN officers stationed in the area, the Israeli side justified this measure by indicating that it was taken for security reasons related to the current investigations into the Ra's al-'Ayn incident which took place 2 days ago. Meanwhile, UNIFIL Commander General Erskine went to the south yesterday where he inspected the general conditions in the area. He affirmed that a continued presence of UN forces in Al-Kawkabah township near Al-Khardali Bridge was important.

Most of the forces there are Norwegians. General Erskine affirmed that the Norwegian soldiers are meeting with difficulties in the area. He acknowledged this following a statement by a UN spokesman that some shots were fired at the Norwegian forces at midnight Thursday and yesterday morning.

VOICE OF LEBANON: 100 IRAQIS LAND AT BEIRUT

NC071300Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1215 GMT 7 Apr 78 NC

[Text] A civilian passenger airliner belonging to a Lebanese company landed at Beirut International Airport at 1030 today carrying about 100 passengers of Iraqi citizenship. All of them were young men. This has raised questions whether these young men have arrived in Lebanon as ordinary visitors or for a specific purpose.

SHOOTING REPORTED IN BEIRUT; TROOPS INTERVENE

Voice of Lebanon Reports

NC091740Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1715 GMT 9 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Light and intermittent shooting occurred in the 'Ayn ar-Rummanah area this evening as a result of provocation by alien elements. The firing became heavier at 1730. Automatic weapons were used. A number of explosions were heard. Today's attempt was preceded by a provocation attempt last night when alien elements fired two RPG shots.

According to initial reports, alien elements, mostly communists and their allies, opened fire wounding four citizens, including one women and one child. This resulted in some exchanges of fire. The responsible security authorities have been informed of this incident and have rushed to contain it. After the incident security precautions and measures were intensified in the area. Intermittent explosions and shooting were still being heard when this newscast was prepared.

This morning alien elements infiltrated the Al-Burj Square. Three people appeared in fatigue uniforms carrying arms and tried to provoke a number of people. As a result there was a fistfight and some shots were fired in the air. The security forces intervened immediately and the incident came to an end. Some shops were closed and there were no pedestrians for some time in the square.

Beirut Radio Reports

NC091716Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Apr 78 NC

[Text] An isolated incident which took place in the Ash-Shiyyah area developed into an exchange of shooting this evening, which soon expanded into other areas. It has been learned that the Arab deterrent forces intervened immediately to contain the incident. They are now liquidating its repercussions. The Arab deterrent forces will issue a statement on the incident later on.

INA Reports

JN100831Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0723 GMT 10 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 10 April--Tension continued today in southern Beirut following last night's clashes between the Ash-Shiyah and 'Ayn ar-Rummanah quarters during which four people were killed and several others were injured. Several gun shots were heard this morning along the dividing line between the two quarters, which is empty of cars and pedestrians. It has been learned that three persons were hit by snipers who have become active again. Large numbers of refugees from southern Lebanon who initially came to this area are now leaving it for other places.

Deterrent Forces' Communique Reported

NC091940Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 9 Apr 78 NC

[Text] The Arab deterrent forces today contained two isolated incidents which were about to contribute to the wave of rumors which certain people are trying to circulate daily to spread confusion in the country.

The first incident occurred in the Martyrs Square this afternoon and the second incident occurred in the Ash-Shiyyah-'Ayn ar-Rummanah area this evening.

The Arab deterrent forces command has issued the following communique on these two incidents:

At 1700 today in the Martyrs Square a personal quarrel occurred between some military men and two civilians. The quarrel developed into a fistfight. The Arab deterrent forces present on the scene, with the assistance of officers in charge of the military men, intervened, arrested the two civilians and referred them to the competent authorities. There were no casualties and the incident is considered closed.

At 1900 today in the Ash-Shiyyah-'Ayn ar-Rummanah area differences of view occurred between two persons from the same area. Each person was then backed by his party. The clash expanded and individual weapons and RPG projectiles were used. The Arab deterrent forces immediately intervened between the two combatant sides and stopped the clash.

The Arab deterrent forces are now acting to liquidate the repercussions of the clash to resolve it in a final way and to hand the case to the competent authorities.

Six persons from the two sides were wounded. The clash did not have any other connotation.

INTER-PALESTINIAN CLASH REPORTED NEAR AN-NABATIYAH

NC071250Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1215 GMT 7 Apr 78 NC

[Text] According to reports from the south a clash took place today among Palestinians near Kafr Tibnit in the An-Nabatiyah area. The reports add that the Palestinian Armed Struggle Command intervened to stop the clash which occurred between the Arab Liberation Front [ALF] and the Fatah organization. Two ALF fighters were killed in the clash.

INA GIVES FIGURES ON SOUTHERN LEBANON EVACUEES

JN071253Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1240 GMT 7 Apr 78 JN

[Excerpt] Beirut, 7 April--It was officially announced here today that the number of evacuees who were compelled to leave their villages in southern Lebanon as a result of the Zionist aggression has reached 220,000. They have taken refuge in Beirut, in the southern Lebanese city of Sidon and in area near Al-Biqa'.

Dr As-ad Rizq, Lebanese minister of labor and chairman of the relief committee, said in a press conference today that the committee has set up 28 centers to distribute foodstuffs and aid. It has also set up 1,000 tents in Sidon and two temporary camps in Beirut.

BUILDING OF FORTIFICATIONS, SNIPING REPORTED IN SOUTH

Voice of Lebanon 10 April

NC100748Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0615 GMT 10 Apr 78 NC

[Excerpts] It has been learned that the Israelis are trying to limit access to Bint Jubyal district through one point, namely Al-Bazuriyah. The French UNIFIL forces in the area reconnoitered the access points to Al-'Abbasiyah and Ma'rakah yesterday morning sinc a number of vehicles had returned from that area. UNIFIL sources have said that the Israelis have built a high earth barrier on the main road to Al-'Abbasiyah, thus making it inaccessible to vehicles.

Moreover, the Israeli forces at the advanced positions in 'Ayn B'al, Al-Mansuri, Al-Bazuriyah and Al-'Abbasiyah have been moving and bringing in new vehicles. Meanwhile, the French UNIFIL force has begun patrolling between the Tyre barracks and the contact barriers in the area. The UNIFIL forces have continued to place barbed wire round their positions.

The commander of the Lebanese gendarme detachment in Tyre has said that the deployment of the Internal Security Forces at the contact barriers has been proceeding satisfactorily. He added that the calm which has been prevailing at the contact axes in the Tyre and An-Nabatiyah areas has encouraged some farmers to return to their fields and begin plowing.

We received a report a short while ago indicating that some troublemakers have been engaged in sporadic sniping on the (?old) Sidon road.

Voice of Lebanon 9 April

NC090817Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0615 GMT 9 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Concerning security in the south, French UNIFIL armored cars have participated in patrols in the township and environs of Tyre. The reconnaisance operations which continued throughout yesterday will be resumed today. Fortifications in the district and suburbs of Tyre are continuing. The French soldiers have put up a barbed-wire fence in front of barriers.

Israeli forces were seen erecting new fortifications in positions overlooking the Tayr Dibbah-Ma'rakah crossroad, and military planes were seen flying over Tyre and An-Nabatiyah.

Explosions were heard yesterday coming from Ra's al-'Ayn and Batulayh. People arriving from Al-Khardali area report that the Norewegian UNIFIL forces were erecting fortifications yesterday on the hills overlooking Al-Khardali Bridge. The Israeli forces are continuing to fortify their positions in the areas of Tayr Dibbah and Ma'rakah. Israeli bulldozers and machinery were heard erecting fortifications there and Israeli barriers have prevented persons from entering or leaving these areas.

However, the An-Naqurah-Tyre road has been opened. It had been blocked by the Al-Bazuriyah barrier until yesterday morning.

INA Reports 7 April

JN071230Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1158 GMT 7 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 7 April--The Zionist occupation forces this morning constructed an earth barrier on the main road leading to the cities of Ayn Bial and Qana and the adjoining villages and prevented the Lebanese evacuees from returning to these villages.

The INA correspondent in southern Lebanon reports that the contacts which the UN Interim Forces in Lebanon [UNIFIL] made to open the road have brought no results. The correspondent adds that it was observed today that the enemy has massed many vehicles 7 km southeast of Tyre.

On the other hand, the UNIFIL forces this morning moved to the buildings of Az-Zahrani refinery, which it took over as its headquarters, and raised the UN flag above them and the refinery, where there is a barrier for the deterrent forces [words indistinct]. The new headquarters and the Tyre garrison have been supplied with two helicopters to transport the UNIFIL forces.

BRIEFS

NEW DAILY NEWSPAPER--Beirut, 9 April--The newspaper AL-WATAN, organ of the Lebanese National Movement, has begun to appear daily. Previously AL-WATAN had been a weekly newspaper. [Cairo MENA in Arabic 1016 GMT 9 Apr 78 NC]

AL-ASAD RECEIVES 'ARAFAT, QADDUMI IN DAMASCUS

JN081223Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 8 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Today at 1230 His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee; Faruq Qaddumi, chief of the PLO Political Department; and Muhammad Ghunaym, member of the Fatah Central Council.

VOP Report on Meeting

JN091836Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1600 GMT 9 Apr 78 JN

[Excerpts] Brother Abu 'Ammar, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces met in Damascus yesterday with President Hafiz al-Asad.

The Palestinian news agency has learned that the meeting, which lasted about 4 and ½ hours, dealt with all current issues and the developments which have taken place on the Arab and international level following the war waged in southern Lebanon against the Zionist forces and the Zionist's occupation of some regions there. The discussions also dealth with ways to consolidate the front of steadfastness and confrontation in the face of all the challenges facing our Arab nation. The talks also concentrated on Palestinian-Syrian relations and ways to consolidate and strengthen them.

The talks were conducted in a fruitful, cordial and fraternal atmosphere.

PALESTINIAN-SYRIAN COORDINATION COMMITTEE MEETS

JN091749Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1600 GMT 9 Apr 78 JN

[Text] The Palestinian-Syrian Coordination Committee met in Damascus yesterday. The Palestinian side was led by brother Abu 'Ammar, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and Commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, and included brother Abu al-Lutf, head of the PLO Political Department; brother Abu Mahir, member of the Fatah Central Committee; and brother 'Abd al Mushin Abu Mayzar, official spokesman of the PLO Executive Committee. The Syrian side was led by "Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, and included Hikmat Ash-Shihabi and Brig Gen 'Ali Duba.

During the meeting issues of mutual interest as well as Syrian-Palestinian relations were discussed. The meeting was positive and fruitful regarding all topics of discussion.

ATH-THAWRAH SCORES U.S. SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL

JN080849Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 8 Apr 78 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] Commenting on the U.S. position toward the Middle East crisis, the newspaper ATH-THAWRAH refutes allegations about the existence of disputes between the United States and Israel over the Middle East problem. The paper affirms that Washington has indisputably supported and still supports Israel. The paper adds that any dialog about this is rejected if it does not take into account the issue of the boundless U.S. support and backing for Israel.

ATH-THAWRAH continues: We say this when we hear from time to time that disputes have recently erupted between Washington and Tel Aviv, particularly following Begin's recent visit to the United States after the treacherous Zionist aggression against southern Lebanon.

To refute these rumors that have been propagated by the Egyptian and Zionist information media, ATH-THAWRAH cites excerpts of the speech U.S. roving ambassador Alfred Atherton made last Wednesday. In his speech, Atherton said verbatim: We are strongly committed to Israel's survival and security. The roots of this commitment are deeply established in history and in our ethical values. This commitmemt has been emphasized by every U.S. administration ever since Israel was founded 30 years ago.

In conclusion, ATH-THAWRAH asserts that any settlement to be engineered by the United States will manifest this position on the one hand and will express the U.S. capitulatory solution on the other.

AL-BA'TH DISCUSSES ROLE OF PROGRESSIVE NATIONAL FRONT

LD071230Y Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 29 Mar 78 p 4 LD

[Hani Khalil article: "The Progressive National Front: A Necessary Prelude to Consolidating Political Stability"]

[Excerpts] President Hariz al-Asad began his historic speech on the occasion of his reelection as president of the reelection as president of the republic by speaking about political stability and its effects on promoting the country's social and economic development. Certainly there have been several factors that contributed to creating this stability and to strengthening and consolidating it. Foremost of these factors is the Progressive National Front.

Although this front is largely an achievement of the 8 March Revolution, it is also an achievement of the leading Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, which believed in the establishment of this front so that the other political parties and organizations would have the opportunity to participate in political decisionmaking and, subsequently, to analyze and observe the results and to issue decisions in the interests of the people.

After assuming office, leader Al-Asad came to realize the need to establish a front which would bring openness between the Ba'th Party and other progressive forces and, consequently, help overcome differences and tactical contradictions in the quest to achieve the major objective--liberation today, unity tomorrow.

This is why the Progressive National Front was set up in March 1972 consisting of the following:

--The Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.
--The Arab Socialist Union.
--The Syrian Communist Party.
--The Socialist Unionists Organization.
--The Arab socialist movement.

The Progressive Nationalist Party with its alliances and coalitions represents a political, social and economic "safety valve," in that it unifies the efforts of all the political forces for the sake of achieving all the proposed national objectives, whether political ones, such as thwarting the present imperialist-Zionist conspiracy by opposing it on the one hand and supporting the Palestinian revolution on the other, or military ones, such as liberating the Arab land from aggression; or economic ones such as completing the stage of socialist change.

More important still, the Progressive National Front means the existence of political stability, which in turn means agreement among the progressive political forces on a correct political line and on the current political stage.

As for the relations between the leading party and the Progressive Front they have been developing constantly. President al-Asad believes that this development should not stop at the present formula but should assume a more effective ideological and practical formula. This was why he said in his well-known presidential speech: "We shall also devote our work in the future to the achievement of a new and developed formula for our national front so that it will become the formula embracing the broad masses."

Naturally, important changes will take place in the formula, functions and role of the front because of the emergence of new conditions in the region, in the Arab homeland and in the world. This was why President al-Asad underlined this very important point in his recent presidential speech. He said: "The approval of a new formula for the Progressive National Front in which the broad masses will participate will further entrench and boost the effectiveness of national unity. It would also strengthen the Progressive National Front in leading political and popular action in the country."

The objectives for which the front was established will remain unchanged but the extent and means of participation in it will develop in the interest of all the masses. National unity, of which the front is one of its key elements and basic structures, will be strengthened through struggle coordination between the party and the front for the sake of:

First, liberation of the occupied Arab lands and restoration of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights;

Second, the building of a strong national economy based on the public sector's leadership in commerce, industry and village cooperatives, as well as on the need for the contribution of the public sector and mixed sector to the implementation of economic and social projects in accordance with the 5-year development plan to whose drafting and supervision of implementation the front will contribute;

Third, insuring the national, political and social unity of the Syrian Arab people under the leadership of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party in participation with the front and other popular organizations;

Fourth, working to achieve the major Arab goals: unity, freedom and socialism;

Fifth, fixing the position of the progressive political forces in their struggle under the leadership of the party and revolution as one against imperialism, Zionism and racism;

Sixth, standing on the side of national liberation revolutions, foremost of which is the Palestinian revolution;

Seventh, standing in the ranks of the world revolutionary forces and strengthening the country's ties with the developing countries and friendly socialist states.

PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION RETURNS FROM LISBON MEETING

JN0809402 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0915 GMT 8 Apr 78 JN

[Text] The delegation of the Syrian People's Assembly returned to Damascus from Lisbon last night after attending the meetings of the International Parliamentary Union. The delegation was headed by Dr Muhsin Bilal, chairman of the Arab and International Affairs Committee. The delegation attended meetings held in Lisbon between 27 March and 1 April.

ALGERIA

UNITS OF SOVIET NAVY BEGIN VISIT TO ALGIERS

LD082200Y Algiers Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 8 Apr 78 LD

[Text] A reception was held at the admiralty tonight by the commanders of the Algerian Navy for the Soviet Navy in honor of Rear Admiral Nikolay Ryabinskiy, commander of the USSR Navy units which began an official friendship visit to Algeria this morning.

In a statement made on arrival, the Soviet rear admiral spoke mainly about the aims of Soviet defense policy. Our policy compels us, he said, not to aim at superiority in armaments, but on the contrary, toward a reduction in armaments. The Soviet Navy has as its missions the defense of socialism and peace. Our ships, the rear admiral added, are sailing on all seas and oceans--and as Gorshkov, admiral of the fleet of the Soviet Union, has said--never set sail [words indistinct] in the Mediterranean, do not threaten anybody but contribute to the stability in this important [word indistinct].

Concerning Soviet-Algerian relations, the rear admiral spoke about his satisfaction [words indistinct] our country, the development of relations of friendship and cooperation between the USSR and Algeria, the recent visit of President Houari Boumediene in January of this year [words indistinct] to the Soviet Union and the desire to develop Algerian-Soviet friendship which serves simultaneously the interests of the Arab peoples against Israeli aggression and the cause of the peoples struggling for freedom in their fight against imperialism and colonialism. He hailed Algeria's successes in the establishment of economic independence and many-sided cooperation with the Soviet Union.

ASH-SHA'B COMMENTS ON UN FORCES IN LEBANON

LD071458Y Algiers ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 3 Apr 78 p 1 LD

[Editorial: "Legitimate Fears"]

[Text] The deployment of UN forces in southern Lebanon is alarming progressive Arab forces which in the 10 days since the Security Council passed the resolution in this regard, have begun wondering about the real purpose of dispatching forces and whether the decision to send these forces is part of a large-scale international plan to liquidate the Palestinian revolution and strike at the front of steadfastness and confrontation so as to impose a U.S.-Zionist peace and to tie the Arab area to the bandwagon of world imperialism.

These legitimate fears probably stem from two factors:

1. The first factor is the identity and national character of the forces that have been sent to supervise the Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon. The French forces would have intervened in the Lebanese war in 1976 if there had not been strong Arab objections. It was no coincidence that the French president declared in Washington on the occasion of his first visit to the United States his readiness to intervene in Lebanon. So will Paris achieve today what it failed to achieve before through exploiting international cover and the resolution of the highest UN body, as well as the state of Arab disarray, or has it found a suitable opportunity to reply to the Syrian attitude toward French imperialist intervention in northwest Africa and support for the Saharan people's struggle--the stand that Syria clearly adopted at the Algiers meeting of the front of steadfastness?

Another alarming factor to be considered is the fact that the secessionists in Lebanon who carried arms against the Palestinians--both military and civilian--have always looked at France as the "loving mother" and a natural ally in view of their common language, religion and history.

On the other hand, there are Iranian forces that, because of the Teheran regime's opposition to liberation movements in the area, cannot possibly be in sympathy with the Palestinian resistance. This regime, as journalist Haykal has revealed, played a major role in paving the way for As-Sadat's visit to occupied Jerusalem. Moreover, the shah publicly declared his rejection of the establishment of a Palestinian state and prefers to annex the West Bank to Jordan.

This idea was discussed during the visit to Teheran in the past 3 months by Moshe Dayan, King Husayn and President Carter.

So, in light of the French and Iranian stands against the Palestinian right and generally against every liberation movement, and in view of the ambitions of both Paris and Teheran, the first to be the policeman in Africa and the second to impose its domination on the whole of the Arab Gulf, the French and Iranian presence in southern Lebanon is viewed with doubts, suspicion and legitimate fears. This is because both parties belong to the same axis which is trying to beseige the Arab homeland from the east and the west and to strike at any attempt to break such seige.

2. The second alarming factor regarding the real purpose behind the presence of UN forces in southern Lebanon is what has been done so far. Instead of these forces supervising the withdrawal of the invading forces from the south, in accordance with the letter and spirit of the Security Council resolution, they are trying to occupy positions which are still under the control of the joint Palestinian-Lebanese forces, something which Israel was unable to achieve.

The question is: Is southern Lebanon going to be cleared of the invading forces or of the battalions of the Palestinian resistance and the Lebanese progressive forces so that the secessionist forces' control in the area will be consolidated and Israel's northern borders will be secured?

However, regardless of how honestly the rest of the UN forces in southern Lebanon fulfill their international mission, it is clearly evident that the conspiring forces are going ahead with implementing their devilish plan against the Palestinian presence in broad daylight under the UN banner. This situation imposes new responsibilities on the front of steadfastness and confrontation in giving material and military support to the Palestinian resistance and showing the highest degree of revolutionary vigilance so that mistakes in assessment and planning here and there will not be exploited.

SUDAN

PRESIDENT NUMAYRI GRANTS INTERVIEW TO AL-JAZIRAH

JN0811417Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0755 GMT 8 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Riyadh, 8 April--Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri has asserted that the basis of Saudi-Sudanese relations is the Arab solidarity slogan being raised by the kingdom.

In an interview with the newspaper AL-JAZIRAH published today, President Numayri said that relations between the two fraternal countries represent a strong and pioneering example of relations among brothers who are linked by the bonds of Islam, Arabism, language, neighborhood and common fate.

These relations, President Numayri added, were firmly established by His Majesty the late King Faysal and have been sincerely developed by His Exalted Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz.

President Numayri, who is the chairman of the Arab solidarity committee that was recently approved by the Arab League, asserted that the action to restore Arab solidarity and unify the Arab ranks at this stage is vital and fateful. President Numayri pointed out that he is continuing his contacts with the Arab brothers--kings and presidents--to achieve Arab accord as a starting point for achieving Arab solidarity.

Speaking about convening an Arab summit conference, President Numayri said that holding such a conference is urgently needed in any event. However, what is more important is guaranteeing the success of this conference. He said: I will exert every effort I can to bring about its success.

Regarding Red Sea security and Sudan's role in achieving this, President Numayri said that keeping the Red Sea out of the international struggle is an urgent need for the littoral countries so that they can devote themselves to their responsibilities regarding domestic development. He said that Sudan is exerting constant efforts to achieve this objective. He added that the invitation is still open to convene a new summit conference to emphasize and implement the resolutions of the Ta'izz summit held last year.

Speaking about the situation in the Horn of Africa, President Numayri said that Sudan's objective is to play the role of mediator among the parties involved in the dispute in the area with the aim of removing justifications for alliances with foreign parties, thus liberating the area from foreign domination and putting an end to potential outbreaks of disputes in this area. Referring to the connection between the Middle East and the Horn of Africa, President Numayri said that foreign attempts to dominate one area represent an opening for dominating the other.

President Numayri pointed out that Sudan's objective is to protect the area against ideological thoughts supported by oppression. This alien thought is no longer capable of asserting its presence by preaching and persuasion, but must use force. He asserted that Sudan's endeavors to achieve this objective do not affect its position of a mediator in solving the Eritrean problem.

President Numayri said that Sudan is moving in two directions--unifying the Eritrean revolution forces and finding a suitable atmosphere for an Ethiopian-Eritrean dialog--so as to achieve the legitimate objectives of all parties concerned. In his interview President Numayri dealt with Sudan's achievements in the field of development during the first year of the plan. He said that over 60 percent of the 810-km port Sudan-Khartoum road has been completed. He said that the first stage of the (Ar-Rahd) agricultural project, with an area of 800,000 acres, has also been completed. Several spinning mills have been constructed, a university has been opened in Juba and higher institutes have also been established in central Sudan. The maritime, air and railroad transport systems have made excellent strides.

Speaking about the achievements scored so far within the framework of integration between Egypt and Sudan, President Numayri said that the experiment of integration between the two fraternal countries is proceeding with studied steps governed by the two countries' resources.

It is proving to be an example that can be generalized among the Arab countries.

President Numayri added that following the creation of the Sudanese-Egyptian company for agricultural investment in the Blue Nile governorate, actual digging of the (Jongali) Canal in upper Nile has started to provide some 4 billion cubic meters of water annually, water which previously just evaporated in the dam's area.

In conclusion President Numayri asserted that Sudan is working to utilize the new status of Sudanese-Libyan relations to restore normal relations between Egypt and Libya. We hope this will take place soon, God willing, President Numayri added.

SEVERAL STATES TO TAKE PART IN SOLIDARITY BODY

LD091655Y Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 9 Apr 78 LD/EA

[Text] The SUDAN NEWS AGENCY has reported that several states have agreed to participate in the Arab solidarity committee under the chairmanship of President Numayri. The setting up of the committee was entrusted to President Numayri by the Arab League for strengthening Arab solidarity and unifying the Arab ranks.

A responsible source has said that a high-level committee at the Foreign Ministry is making contacts with the Arab states concerning the committee membership and its coordination with these states. The source added that consultations are still going on to complete the membership and to fix the date of its first meeting. He said the committee's action plan will be among the most important issues submitted during the visit of the Arab League secretary general to the Sudan on 10 April.

It is worth mentioning that the committee will make preparations for holding an emergency Arab summit to discuss the current situation in the Arab world.

SUNA REPORTS ON NUMAYRI SPEECH ON TRADE UNIONS

NC091550Y Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1440 GMT 9 Apr 78 NC

[Excerpts] Khartoum, 9 April--In his speech to the masses of the alliance forces in the Khartoum Directorate, President Numayri today strongly criticized the Sudanese doctors union for requesting a better cadre than other groups although their salaries are the highest in the country.

The president warned the masses of the trade unions against the infiltration of misleading elements that call for strikes and are unaware that the authority is now in the hands of the people's working forces. The president told the masses that he is closely watching what is going on in some unions and watching the activities of these unions. He added that he learned that some trade unionists were holding contacts with some foreign embassies against the country and that he was watching the movement of those intruders and those working against the country, especially the foreigners who work in the areas of their embassies.

His excellency warned against Soviet plots. He told the masses: The Soviet bear is working among you and is lying in wait for you.

The president also announced the completion of the employment cadre for all those working in Sudan.

TUNISIA

HABIB BOURGUIBA, JR, GIVES STATEMENT TO GNA

JN071532Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1430 GMT 7 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 7 April--Habib Bourguiba, Jr, has called for drawing up a defined Arab strategy to deal with the challenges facing the fateful issues of the Arab nation.

Bourguiba Jr added that the plan must define priorities among the current issues, most important of which are Palestine and the liberation of the occupied Arab territories.

He added that the success of the plan depends on the extent to which the Arab mind is given preponderance over emotions. It also depends on truth and sincerity in work.

In a statement to the GNA, Bourguiba Jr expressed regret because we are retrogressing while the enemies are progressing and occupying more land. Bourguiba Jr also expressed the hope that a collective Arab agreement will be reached on a unified plan, because, he said: "Rain is much better than thunder."

On the situation in southern Lebanon, Bourguiba Jr said it is crazy to consider the events in Lebanon something new. Explaining further, he added that this is only a new page in the old story of the Israeli ambitions in the Arab homeland, which have become a customary practice in history, while we are still negligent in the performance of our duty, the duty which is written in blood.

Bourguiba Jr said that Tunisia supports the presence of the UN emergency forces if such a presence is intended to stop the Israeli advance and to effect the withdrawal of the Israelis from the Lebanese territories. However, if the UN forces remain in Lebanon in a state of no war, no peace, this will be another farce.

Speaking about the situation in northern Africa and the Horn of Africa, the Tunisian presidential adviser said Tunisia is concerned about the increasing Soviet presence in the continent and considers it an intrusion of their color and philosophy, which is based on expansion in the continent.

On the political situation in Tunisia, he said that stability now prevails after the recent riots. He added that he had briefed UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan on the recent events and the circumstances surrounding them. Bourguiba said that it has been proved that foreign elements played a role in the recent events which took place after some of the riot leaders returned from their numerous visits abroad. Bourguiba accused some government elements of encouraging the riots. The Ministry of the Interior, which is responsible for the security of the country, had a hand in encouraging these riots, he said. Therefore, the interior minister was dismissed and a few ministers resigned and we accepted their resignations. We are responsible for the security of the citizens and their property, which became exposed to danger, Bourguiba added.

IDF SPOKESMAN: CLUSTER BOMBS USED AGAINST ARTILLERY

TA091916Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1900 GMT 9 Apr 78 TA

[From the special Evening Newsreel]

[Text] In answer to a question, the IDF spokesman stated that during the IDF Litani Operation in southern Lebanon there were a number of cases in which there was continual artillery and Katyusha rocket fire on settlements in northern Israel. The IDF used cluster bombs against these artillery units and nearby field positions.

JERUSALEM SOURCES RAP ATHERTON REMARKS ON U.S. POLICY

TA071411Y Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 7 Apr 78 p 1 TA

[By Dalya Shehori]

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan will apparently go to the United States after Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman's return from Cairo. The defense minister will go to Cairo at the end of next week and will remain there for about 2 days. The date for Dayan's arrival in Washington has not yet been set by the Americans.

Political observers in Jerusalem remarked yesterday that the statement of the U.S. position by Assistant Secretary Atherton was not, given its present timing--on the eve of the next round of direct contacts between Israel and Egypt--conducive to a successful outcome of the contacts, since it would strengthen the hand of As-Sadat and make his position in the talks with Weizman more intransigent.

DAVAR COMMENTS ON ATHERTON SPEECH ON MIDEAST POLICY

TA091612Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 9 Apr 78 p 5 TA

[Editorial]

[Text] U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Alfred Atherton, who served as the "roving ambassador" in the peace negotiations before they were deadlocked, explained, in a public speech in Atlanta last week, the U.S. position regarding the Middle East conflict in general, and the progression of the negotiations in particular. The speech was undoubtedly written and examined carefully, every word of it was undoubtedly carefully considered and it undoubtedly constitutes an authoritative expression of Washington's views on the matter under discussion.

Furthermore, this speech is part of the information campaign conducted by President Carter, who not only wants to clarify to Congress and public opinion the motives of his administration in its treatment of this issue but also to gain support for this position toward an attempt to break the deadlock which has been created in the negotiations.

Anyone who scrutinizes the speech cannot make a mistake: Israel is blamed for the stalemate in the negotiations, and it should regretfully be noted that this is not entirely unfounded. The blame focuses on two subjects: the refusal of the Israeli Government to agree to apply UN Resolution 242 to all fronts, and the settlement activity.

On these subjects the administration stands a good chance of isolating Israel since, with respect to both issues, the Israeli Government cannot expect much sympathy even from its best friends in the United States, nor from a large part of the public in Israel.

If the U.S. administration entertained any hopes concerning the breaking of the deadlock following the defense minister's recent trip to Cairo, these finally proved groundless. The talks held by Weizman and Professor Baraq revolved around the questions delaying the formulation of the declaration of principles and it is clear that no significant progress could be made in them. Moreover, if no change occurs in Israel's position on this matter then in his next trip to Egypt as well the defense minister will be unable to get the negotiations moving.

It seems that the U.S. administration has not yet decided what measures to adopt in order to dissolve the stalemate, namely, in which ways to apply effective pressure on the Israeli Government so as to soften its position. The Carter administration, which was wrong to a certain extent in its treatment of the Middle East problems, may make a mistake this time as well and take extreme steps that will harden the position of the Israeli Government instead of improving the atmosphere. The fact that both in Washington and in Jerusalem there is presently nobody who can reveal resourcefulness and original thinking that will get the cart of negotiations out of the mud is worrisome since the choice now is between quick progress or quick deterioration. The sand clock of the interim situation is becoming increasingly empty day by day.

AS-SADAT'S MOTIVATIONS IN NEGOTIATIONS DISCUSSED

TA071420Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 7 Apr 78 p 16 TA

['Uzzi Benziman article]

[Excerpts] The minutes of the talks Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman had in Egypt last week consist of many dozens of pages. The fat file holding the pages deterred the cabinet members and most of them, except for three, did not make the effort to peruse it. Only three cabinet members--Begin, Yadin and Dayan--read it through. The other five members of the Ministerial Committee for Security Affairs made do with listening to the detailed report, albeit interrupted in the middle, which they received on the talks by 'Ezer Weizman last Sunday before the cabinet meeting began. The rest of the cabinet members heard only a general and superficial briefing made by Weizman at last week's cabinet session.

The laziness of the most cabinet members explains, perhaps, the fog through which most of them tried unsuccessfully last week to assess the value of the Weizman talks in the negotiating process with Egypt. To the objective difficulty--penetrating into what is hidden in the Egyptian president's mind--was added the grave neglect of most ministers, who failed to fulfill their elementary duty by not reading the minutes of the talks. This negligence occurred despite the fact that the defense minister's trip to Egypt was deemed to be an important move, a principal probing, an attempt to unlock the stalemate that was generated following Begin's last visit to Washington.

A pity that these nice evaluations, which had been made by cabinet members before the defense minister's journey, were not strong enough to make them take a more profound interest in the development of the talks, as they had been recorded in the dry and precise memorandum of the government's legal adviser, Prof Aharon Baraq, who accompanied Weizman on his visit. The disregard of the cabinet members for the above-mentioned minutes happens to be in an inverse ratio to the hopes and expectations which they had placed in the defense minister's visit.

The flight to Egypt was initiated by Weizman, who was relying on an exchange of messages he had had with Egyptian War Minister, al-Jamasi. In the course of that exchange [four lines deleted by military censor] Al-Jamasi sent several remarks in favor of maintaining contact between the two countries.

Weizman took up these utterances and suggested to the cabinet that it regard them as a standing invitation to renew the direct contact. The cabinet accepted his proposal and charged him with the task of finding out in Egypt whether there is, indeed, a willingness there to have meetings with him. (Weizman proposed in the cabinet that the foreign minister should go, but Dayan firmly refused. All the ministers were unanimously of the opinion that Weizman should go to Cairo.) A clarification, which was undertaken by the Israeli military team that is staying at At-Tahirah Palace in Cairo showed that Al-Jamasi still stood behind that invitation, and last Thursday Weizman went to Cairo.

Initially Cairo asked to keep the date of the visit secret. The Egyptians, however, surprised Israel again: they publicized the date of the visit in advance, and even gave it considerable prominence in the media. When the talks ended--the Egyptians released numerous reports that were meant to describe the visit in gloomy hues. The impression in Jerusalem from Weizman's report was somewhat different: Weizman emphasized moments, situations and sentences in the visit, which seemingly testified to an Egyptian readiness to listen to Israel's claims.

Weizman took pains to cling to those [line deleted by censor] in order to substantiate his assessment that this channel of negotiations should be developed [line deleted by censor]. Due to their indifference, most cabinet members are unable to put in proper context the few optimistic rays of light that emerged here and there in the course of the talks by Weizman and Baraq.

The Weizman-Baraq talks were conducted in four arenas: meetings of the two Israeli representatives with As-Sadat only; quadripartite talks, Weizman-Baraq-As-Sadat-Al-Jamasi; a talk between Weizman, Baraq and Al-Jamasi; one meeting between Baraq and Al-Jamasi. Mention was made in the talks of the state of the negotiations between Israel and Egypt from the point of view of the proposed Sinai arrangements, but mainly the talks dealt with the chief obstacle currently precluding progress: the future of Judaea and Samaria and, consequently, the status of the Palestinians.

Weizman went to Cairo in order to talk "business" with As-Sadat. [Several lines deleted by censor]

As mentioned earlier, the details of the talks are recorded in the minutes, while a blackout has been imposed on Weizman's report to the cabinet. However, Weizman did give some details on the meetings in Cairo to the Knesset Security and Foreign Affairs Committee and to several members of his party. From these descriptions the following picture is emerging on the progress of the talks: [several lines deleted by censor]

The vicissitudes of As-Sadat's mind--thus, at least, appear his [words deleted by censor] positions in Jerusalem--are bothering [words deleted by censor]. The contradictions in his positions cause [word deleted by censor] and senior officials to talk of "As-Sadat--a puzzle," "As-Sadat--an odd type," "As-Sadat--foxy and sophisticated." They fail to understand his intentions: Was he from the start only interested in reaching a settlement with Israel but reneged due to the reaction of the Arab world? Is his approach regarding the Palestinian issue meant to achieve a practical purpose in the spirit of his declared positions, or it it meant to provide him with a respectable verbal excuse? Does he, at this stage, intend to conduct practical negotiations or does he want to gain sympathy from U.S. public opinion or does he want to widen the rift between Jerusalem and Washington? Maybe he is only a man torn--just like Begin--between his desire to attain peace and his prior commitment to an idea which is noble in his eyes (the future of the Palestinians).

When the talks in Egypt ended, it was understood that they would be carried on. However, on their arrival in Lod Weizman and Baraq couldn't say when they would be returning to Egypt. It was again As-Sadat who dropped a surprise and who announced publicly, in an interview in October, that Weizman would be back in Egypt the following week. What will happen in the next round of talks?

There are various interpretations regarding the scenarios of the next phase, all of them fashioned according to the players' attitudes to the earlier phase. There is the expectation of an Egyptian answer regarding the proposals which Weizman presented during his visit [two lines deleted by censor]. These proposals dealt mainly with how the negotiations should be conducted in the future: How to continue the dialog, how to circumvent existing difficulties.

Regardless of whether As-Sadat responds to Begin's expectations, it is doubted that Weizman's shuttles will become a permanent phenomenon. As-Sadat will have to decide if he is negotiating with the government of Israel or merely with its defense minister. Baraq's cooption to the former visit, something that was effected at Weizman's wish, was also meant to diversify the Israeli representation and not make it consist of the defense minister alone. 'Ezer Weizman has enough personal and political reasons to refuse to be a soloist in the steering of the negotiations with Egypt.

MA'ARIV DISCUSSES EGYPTIAN, ISRAELI NEGOTIATING TACTICS

TA071504Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 7 Apr 78 pp 13, 14 TA

[Moshe Zaq commentary]

[Excerpt] The secrecy with which Israel conducted its negotiations with Egypt prior to As-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem gave the Egyptian president two advantages:

A. He received an Israeli promise to return the Sinai to Egyptian sovereignty;

B. He could turn the secret Israeli initiative into a public initiative of his own.

The first in the series of As-Sadat's moves was using an achievement he made in the secret diplomacy as a basis for the dictation of conditions to Israel in public diplomacy.

In the negotiations Dayan held with (Hassan Tuhami), Egyptian deputy prime minister, Israel made it clear that its readiness to give up the entire Sinai does not mean readiness to withdraw to the lines of 4 June 1967. On the contrary, it was made clear to the Egyptian Government that Israel recognizes the international border in the Sinai but that it will not withdraw to the armistice lines of 1949 and will not agree to a Palestinian state. That was the basis for the first meeting between As-Sadat and Begin. As-Sadat had known about this in advance, before his arrival in Jerusalem, and he still came.

However, the Israeli Government had a "flat tire" at this point. As-Sadat took the initiative out of Israel's hands and began surprising it with moves in public:

A. As-Sadat decided that his first meeting with the Israeli prime minister will be public and in Jerusalem, and the Israeli Government agreed to allow him to speak in the Knesset;

B. He publicly announced the convening of the Cairo conference in December last year without first consulting with the Israeli Government, and the Israeli Government accepted his announcement and sent a delegation to Cairo;

C. He announced his invitation to meet Begin in Ismailia and the Israeli Government said "yes," although politeness and logic demanded that the prime minister would go to Cairo and would also be allowed to speak in the Egyptian parliament;

D. He announced the cessation of the discussions in the Political Committee in Jerusalem, and the Israeli Government did not take the opportunity to condemn this unilateral decision but settled for "continuing the contacts in a different manner";

E. He announced the next visit of Weizman in Cairo on the day following the statement of the Israeli Government expressing its regret about the Egyptian delay of the resumption of the work of the Political and Military committees. Here too, the Israeli Government does not announce that the invitation to Cairo cannot come in place of the reply from Egypt for which we are waiting.

Anwar as-Sadat knows that Israel will not tear the thread of contact with him and therefore it is clear to him in advance that no matter whether he stops a dialog or calls for it, Israel will avoid a confrontation with him. This gives him a tactical advantage in the moves he chooses.

Weizman said jokingly that his flights to Egypt for meetings with its leaders constitute something like "a Weizman corridor."

A Jewish industry magnate passed a message to As-Sadat through Israeli representatives to the effect that he is prepared to build a railroad between Israel and Egypt that will be called "As-Sadat's railroad." The air corridor of Weizman and the railroad of As-Sadat do not exist in a vacuum.

As long as the first stages of the negotiations between Israel and Egypt, prior to As-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem, were conducted in secrecy, Egypt and Israel could advance to the point of breaking the psychological barrier which led to the public appearance in Jerusalem.

However, from the moment the secret negotiations moved into the international arena, Israel and Egypt could no longer continue to act according to the rules set out in the secret meetings. Not only the United States but also other countries, Arab and non-Arab, began to influence the course of the negotiations and As-Sadat succeeded in taking advantage of the new conditions, the conditions of publicity, in order to gain the utmost benefit for his political struggle with Israel.

For some reason, while As-Sadat has been planning his public moves, the Israeli Government has remained faithful to the undertakings given during the stage of secret diplomacy, although the rug was pulled from underneath this diplomacy.

The Israeli Government did not reveal in public the concessions it made to Egypt just as it did not reveal the initiatives it took prior to As-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem. As-Sadat, in contrast, publicly declares all his demands of Israel and thus an imbalance is created between the two parties to the negotiations. World public opinion, and possibly also Israel, talks of "As-Sadat's peace initiative" and that it is also natural that Israel be required to give something in return for this initiative, whereas, in fact, As-Sadat's initiative was the visit and not the peace negotiations.

If the negotiations continued in "the Weizman corridor" only, then this distinction could have been given up but, since the negotiations are also conducted in "the Dayan channel," namely, also within the arena of U.S. public opinion, there is room for a reassessment of how Israel's initiative and its concessions should be presented without giving Egypt the tactical advantage resulting from the compensation we owe it, as it were, for its "peace initiative."

The defense minister is surely right in his argument with the foreign minister when he says that the "Atherton mediation" was unnecessary and harmful. However, it is difficult to assume that it is possible to conclude the negotiations with As-Sadat today in the "Weizman corridor."

Egypt is interested in the continuation of the dialog with the defense minister. It will do it no harm in the U.S. Congress, in its efforts to get approval for the procurement of intercepter aircraft. It may only help.

When the Egyptian president receives a letter from the U.S. President in which he details all the demands he presented to the Israeli prime minister, is it conceivable that As-Sadat will be ready to conclude the negotiations with Israel before he knows what Carter has squeezed from Begin?

We have recently been witnesses to an argument between the foreign minister and the defense minister. The defense minister recommends that the direct negotiations be continued whereas the foreign minister repeatedly declares that without U.S. mediation the negotiations will not make progress.

This argument was surely desirable before we invited the United States to express its opinion about the "autonomy plan" and before Carter intervened and raised his "ideas" to Menahem Begin.

As-Sadat knows that Carter expects an answer from Begin and, therefore, it is doubtful whether he will be prepared to conclude the negotiations with Weizman now. Thus, on behalf of the "Weizman corridor" as well it is vital to open the "Dayan channel"--and not necessarily because U.S. mediation may bring the parties closer but, and mainly, in order to examine ways whereby it is possible to prevent a situation in which U.S. mediation hardens As-Sadat's positions.

The defense minister deemed it necessary, even before the meeting between Carter and Begin, to reopen the corridor leading to the Egyptian war minister. Al-Jamasi appreciated Weizman's report about Lebanon, and the channel of the direct contacts opened up at a time when the negotiations through Washington seemed blocked.

'Ezer Weizman did well but he will be mistaken if he thinks that in this way we will be able to negotiate with As-Sadat--"The ideas" Carter presented to Begin will harden As-Sadat.

The foreign minister, therefore, tries to reopen the Washington channel, but he certainly has no illusions himself that Vance's agreement to a change in the versions of the declaration of intent will indeed guarantee Egypt's agreement, inasmuch as we are caught in a "Saudi circle" where Egypt wants to insure the participation of Jordan in the negotiations and Jordan cannot agree without Syria's consent--and Syria, in turn, will not give its consent without the PLO's.

The foreign minister knows this and he will make a mistake if, in his argument with the defense minister, he transfers the center of gravity of our negotiations with Egypt to the Washington arena. One should not confine oneself to the "Weizman corridor" but one should not rely entirely on the "Atherton mediation."

The effort in the Washington arena should be aimed at persuading the U.S. Government to let our negotiations with Egypt take its course without the interruption of prompters and without prematurely precipitating things.

Israel and Egypt have no way back on the road of peace negotiations, neither now or tomorrow. But, let there be negotiations, not a steamroller.

BEGIN REACTS TO ANTIGOVERNMENT DEMONSTRATION

TA071307Y Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT Weekend Supplement in Hebrew 7 Mar 78 p 4 TA

[By Arye Zimmuqi]

[Excerpt] "A legitimate phenomenon of expression of opinions in a democratic state," this was how the prime minister defined the demonstration of youths at Malkehy Yisra'el Square in Tel Aviv, a demonstration held under the slogan of "peace is preferable to territories." Mr Begin's reaction stands out as unique in view of the fierce reactions from several of the coalition heads. However, not everyone shares Begin's opinion and reactions and therefore a mass counterdemonstration in support of the government is being planned. The disagreement between Begin and his colleagues apparently revolves around defining the reaction to the "demonstration of the reserve officers." Some claim that it chiefly expressed the disappointment of many with the existing parties, that this disappointment was given an outlet in a framework which is, at least apparently, apolitical.

Relying on public opinion polls conducted lately, experts argue that a significant change has occurred in the views of the citizens. Compared with polls conducted a month ago, the change is expressed in erosion in the status of the coalition parties, in a rise in the status of the Labor Party and a sharp decline in the status of the Democratic Movement for Change in the eyes of the public. At the same time the number of citizens that no longer find an answer within the framework of the existing parties to things which trouble them has considerably grown.

The interpretations of these developments are variegated. "Erosion in the Likud status but without a craving for the Alinement, the sins of whose previous leadership are still well remembered." This is one definition. Others explain that Begin personally still enjoys unreserved confidence in his personal integrity but that an erosion has occurred regarding the realiability of his reasoning on personal issues in the wake of the Shave affair and in the wake of his "fence sitting" regarding the sharp conflict between 'Ezer Weizman and Ari'el Sharon. The result of all this is a feeling of nervousness and dissatisfaction in the coalition which is aware of the somewhat grim mood of the public that is growing all the more somber against the background of the increasing economic and social tension.

This dissatisfaction in the coalition may be felt more than usual when renewed activity is noted among the Labor Party and when some of its heads hold contacts with some of the heads of the Likud liberal and La'am factions, although it was made clear to the Labor Party members in these contacts that as long as Begin serves as prime minister and the Likud head, no cracks and fissures are to be expected in the ruling party. Begin, the Labor Party members were told, is acceptable to all the Likud components and, this is what is said at least, there is no danger of a split or withdrawal.

BEGIN REPLY TO WALDHEIM OUTLINES IDF WITHDRAWAL

TA091443Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 9 Apr 78 pp 1, 2 TA

[By 'Uzzi Benziman]

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin on Friday afternoon answered UN Secretary General Waldheim's letter regarding the withdrawal of the IDF from southern Lebanon, stating that the withdrawal will be carried out according to the agreement reached between Defense Minister Weizman and General Siilasvuo, the commander of the UN forces in the region.

Mr Begin's letter of reply implies that there is no change in the government's position concerning the pace and nature of the IDF's withdrawal from southern Lebanon.

Sources in the prime minister's office yesterday defined the letter of the UN secretary general as a document worded in a formal and cold tone although they do not view this as a manifestation of a deterioration of relations between Israel and the United Nations. The sources are of the opinion that Dr Waldheim's appeal should be viewed as a step which is mainly of technical significance.

The sources emphasized that nobody in Israel wants to remain in Lebanon and that the UN secretary general is well aware of the government's decision to evacuate the area the moment the deployment of the UN forces there is completed.

The situation in southern Lebanon, including the incident near Tyre as a result of which five IDF soldiers are missing, will be reviewed by the cabinet today.

The main part of the cabinet meeting today will be dedicated to the problems of wages, the EL AL strike and other current subjects. It is possible that the imminent trip of Defense Minister Weizman to Cairo will also be discussed.

Ze'ev Schiff, HA'AREZ military correspondent, reports:

The IDF is completing preparations toward the implementation of the first phase of its withdrawal from southern Lebanon. For the time being only two phases for a partial withdrawal have been determined and a date for the continuation of the withdrawal has not been set yet. The first stage that will be carried out the day after tomorrow (Tuesday), affects only the Fatahland front and the front east of the Litani River. The IDF forces on that front will actually return to the line from which they set out for the Litani operation. Three days later (Friday), 14 April, another phase of the withdrawal will be carried out. In that phase the IDF forces will withdraw from the Litani along the front that begins at "the elbow" of the river (where the Litani turns westward) and extends up to a distance of about 12 km westward along the river. The withdrawal will be to a distance of about 6 km southward.

For the time being the IDF does not intend to withdraw from the region where its forces surround the terrorists in the Tyre and Ar-Rashidiyah pockets. The next stages will be determined in coordination with UN headquarters.

UNIFIL DEPLOYMENT PROBLEMS MAY DELAY IDF WITHDRAWAL

TA091501Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 9 Apr 78 p 1 TA

[Text] The efforts to organize UN forces in southern Lebanon is encountering difficulties and therefore the IDF may delay the withdrawal of its forces from the region.

Various sources in the UN force are of the opinion that an Israeli withdrawal should be expected only in a month's time, at the earliest, since only then might the UN units have completed their deployment. Israel intended to complete the withdrawal in about 2 weeks.

The UN force in southern Lebanon suffers from a shortage of soldiers. After its reinforcement by a Nepalese battalion it will number about 3,000 soldiers instead of the 4,000 stipulated by the UN Security Council. At least two more battalions are needed and it is not clear where they will come from.

CORRESPONDENT REPORTS ON 9 APRIL CABINET SESSION

TA091634Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 9 Apr 78 TA

[From the Afternoon Newsreel]

[Text] First, the cabinet meeting. Today, the cabinet heard reports from the minister of defense and the chief of staff on the situation in southern Lebanon. Minister Weizman and Leiutenant General Gur also reviewed the IDF's plans for withdrawal arrangements from southern Lebanon. Our political correspondent, Yosi La'or, reports on the weekly cabinet meeting:

The major topic of the noneconomic part of the cabinet meeting was security and military issues, which it discussed while meeting in its capacity as the Ministerial Committee for Security Affairs. The defense minister and the chief of staff reported to the cabinet on the circumstances of the incident in the Tyre region. Government Secretary Na'or said after the meeting that the incident certainly was tied in with discipline in the IDF. It was also said in the cabinet that there is no information from the Red Cross about the return of the missing.

On the security issue, a report was made about the IDF's plans for a partial and a total withdrawal from southern Lebanon. These are the plans submitted to UN representatives. The government secretary said that the reports published on this issue from UN sources are inaccurate and not authoritative. On the same issue, a report was given concerning the message from the UN secretary general to the prime minister and on Mr Begin's reply, according to which the IDF will withdraw in accordance with the plan and with the deployment of the UN forces and the completion of the arrangements to prevent terrorist activity.

On the southern Lebanon issue, the efforts to return the refugees and rehabilitate them were also mentioned. The government secretary confirmed that the defense minister reported on his weekend meeting with the U.S. ambassador. Mr Na'or pointed out that the term cluster bombs was mentioned in the cabinet meeting but he refused to respond to questions on whether the State Department announcement that Israel had violated a purchase agreement by using these bombs in southern Lebanon had been discussed.

As for the defense minister's report, the government secretary stated that an expected visit to Cairo was not mentioned and no exact date for further talks with President as-Sadat had been fixed.

The cabinet also heard today from the foreign minister, a report on his visit to Romania. It was decided to resume Israel's contributions to the UNESCO budget. This decision was made because the UN organization responsible for education, cultural and science has not passed any extreme resolutions against Israel recently.

JERUSALEM WILL NOT TALK TO PLO ABOUT MISSING SOLDIERS

TA071133Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 7 Apr 78 TA

[Text] Israel will not conduct negotiations with the PLO. This was said this morning by circles in the capital, referring to the incident that occurred the day before yesterday in the Tyre area. To find the missing (?soldiers) we have appealed to the Red Cross and to the UN forces, the circles said, as is customary in such cases where humanitarian aid is needed. Israel does not attend to appeal to the PLO on this issue. All dealings concerning the return of the missing soldier and the soldiers' bodies will be handled by the Red Cross and the UN forces command. These details were reported by our political correspondent.

POLICY GOALS IN SOUTHERN LEBANON QUESTIONED

TA100821Y Jerusalem POST in English 10 Apr 78 p 10 TA

[By Hirsh Goodman]

[Text] Confusion continues to reign over the situation in the Lebanon.

Things were confusing when the Israel Defence Forces invaded southern Lebanon almost a month ago. They got more confusing three Saturdays ago, when the mukhtar of Tibnin waved a white flag to Israeli troops, at almost the same time that the U.S. was prematurely rushing to the Secrity Council--with both acts setting in motion a chain of events which ended up with Israeli troops on the banks of the Litani River. And there was no small amount of confusion when UN troops, dispatched to the area with Israel's blessing, were prevented from taking up their positions, first by the Christians under Major Haddad, and later by the Palestine Liberation Organization forces.

But as the days became weeks, both the government and the military, showing an admirable ability to mould policy goals in retrospect, made a series of public pronouncements to the confused Israeli public, telling it what the goals of the operation were, and under what conditions Israel would be prepared to withdraw.

Simply stated, the basic minimum conditions for an Israeli withdrawal, as articulated by the military leadership were:

1) That the positions to be relinquished by Israel, specifically along the Litani, would be taken over by competent UNIFIL forces, and that some UN personnel would be deployed to keep order at key villages in the south.

2) That some modicum of understanding would be reached with the Syrians, to keep the PLO under control and prevent PLO infiltration to the south.

3) That at least two battalions of regular Lebanese troops would be brought to the south in order to help bolster local militias and keep order in the Moslem and Christian communities.

4) That Major Sa'd Haddad and his men would be absorbed into these regular Lebanese forces, and that both Haddad and Shadyak (the Christian leader who controlled Christian forces in the central sector) would be given commissions and commands.

5) That the intrinsic interests of the Christian community in the south would be guaranteed and protected, and that the good fence would continue to operate.

And now we are told that tomorrow Israeli forces will begin a withdrawal process. Tomorrow they will withdraw from the eastern sector--a sector which has no defined border and to which the PLO already has started to return with UN sanction. And on April 14, Israel will retreat from the central sector to a depth of some seven kilometres from the Litani River.

In neither case is Israel retreating from these sensitive areas with any understanding having been reached with the Syrians.

There is a retreat, but the regular Lebanese battalions have not been deployed in the south; there is a retreat, but no steps have been taken to protect the rights of the Christian community who, we are told, are being treated "evenhandedly" by the UN. In other words, they are getting the same treatment accorded to the PLO.

The policy goals, so eloquently formulated and postulated, have now been thrown by the wayside. A massive war was conducted: promises were made, but the withdrawal is now in progress with only one of the five basic conditions still intact--the deployment of a UN force whose permanence in the south is an open question.

There are other open questions--questions which are no doubt being asked by our Christian allies, by those who fought in the war, and those members of the public who, perhaps naively, thought that the government had finally moulded a policy for southern Lebanon.

Israel's withdrawal is not being made in a vacuum. There are two forces at play here: American pressure, and Israel's desire to extricate the IDF and the country from a horrible mess.

The problems of southern Lebanon are tremendous. Israeli officials have now realized that Israel would be better off without the responsibility of feeding, housing and caring for over 150,000 people.

Thus it is to Israel's advantage to bow to American pressure at this time. American pressure has actually given Israel an "honourable" way out of the mess the government created in southern Lebanon--and what is more, it has reduced, or rather side-tracked, other American pressures in areas where the Israeli interest is better defined, such as the As-Sadat talks and the future of the West Bank.

We are now about to witness an Israeli withdrawal from a substantial slice of southern Lebanon. In retrospect (a habit fast becoming a national pastime) the goals laid down by the policy-makers could never have been achieved, and were unrealistic to begin with.

Why Israel should have believed that the Syrians would be willing to cooperate in controlling the PLO remains a mystery, even to those whose job it is to understand these things. Where exactly the Lebanese chief of staff was supposed to find two (and some people in Israel were even speaking about three) battalions to send down to the south is still not clear.

True tomorrow's step backward, and the one due to be made on April 14, do not represent a total Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon. The withdrawal is a "tactical one," those who asked were told. But then, it is also true that Israel, even with its forces sitting on the Litani itself, could not implement the policy goals it had defined for itself. There is little hope this can now be achieved, with one foot back over the border.

HAZOFE COMMENTS ON WITHDRAWAL FROM LEBANON

TA100912Y Tel Aviv HAZOFE in Hebrew 10 Apr 78 p 2 TA

[Editorial]

[Text] The political objective of the IDF operation in southern Lebanon has not yet been achieved; the objective was to expel the terrorists from the area and the fear is that after the IDF exit the terrorists will return and again establish their camps in the territory. A situation will be created where the terrorist organizations will stay in the area under UN protection.

The letter from Secretary General of the United Nations Kurt Waldheim to the prime minister, in which the secretary general demanded a speeding up of the IDF evacuation, harms the objective of the establishment of the UN force. The objective is to enforce order in the area and to expel from it unauthorized military forces.

As long as this objective is not achieved, the target of the UN force will be in doubt. The resolution by the council of EEC ministers on this also ignores the part played by the terrorists in which they damaged the sovereignty of Lebanon and caused the civil war. The terrorists sacrificed Lebanon, which had been the most democratic Arab country in the Middle East. The other Arab countries refused to accommodate the terrorist organizations and laid the task on Lebanon, the weakest country in the area which has no strength to oppose the terrorist organizations. The IDF entered southern Lebanon to obtain security in the area and when that objective is gained there will no longer be any need to maintain Israeli forces there.

IDF MEDIATES S. LEBANON CHRISTIAN-UNIFIL DISPUTE

TA071352Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 7 Apr 78 p 1 TA

[By Bat 'Ami Hamizrahi]

[Text] Serious disputes broke out yesterday between UN troops and Christian soldiers from among major Haddad's men, and in several places the Christians set up armed roadblocks on roads used by UN troops. The Christian fighters explained their moves by the fact that the UN force had seized control of strategically important points, notably overlooking At-Tayyibah, without receiving permission from Major Haddad. IDF officers yesterday tried to bring about a reconciliation between the sides and toward evening the Christians dismantled their roadblocks and allowed the movement of UN troops into the area.

One Norwegian soldier was slightly wounded yesterday in a terrorist shelling directed at the Christian village of Qa'qaba near Marj 'Uyun.

ALL REFUGEES TO BE PERMITTED TO RETURN HOME

TA091547Y Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 9 Apr 78 p 7 TA

[Excerpt] Over 25,000 refugees have returned to their homes since the fighting in southern Lebanon ceased. Together with the residents who did not leave the area the population in southern Lebanon now numbers over 150,000.

In meetings with officers of the Lebanese Army, senior IDF officers stated that the Israeli Government has decided to allow the return of all the refugees, regardless of their communal origin, to their homes and to help the early restoration of civilian life in southern Lebanon. It was noted that people began fleeing as early as the day after the outbreak of the civil war in Lebanon 3 years ago and that only the last wave of refugees was caused by the IDF Litani operation. However, Israel will not distinguish between different types of refugees and will enable all the Lebanese refugees to return home.

LEBANON NOT PUSHING FOR IDF PULLBACK WITHOUT UN FORCE

TA091541Y Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 9 Apr 78 pp 1, 8 TA

[By Arye Zimmuqi and Yehezqel Hame'iri]

[Excerpts] The cabinet, in its meeting today, will discuss the whole range of problems connected with the situation in southern Lebanon and the tragic incident near Tyre.

It has been learned that there were misunderstandings last week between the coordinator of the UN forces in the region, Gen Ensio Siilasvuo, and the IDF about the question of the IDF's withdrawal from southern Lebanon, and that he complained about this to UN Secretary General Waldheim. It seems that these misunderstandings were cleared up after talks with General Siilasvuo.

It also appears that while the Lebanese publicly demand the immediate withdrawal of the IDF from southern Lebanon, in informal talks they express the opinion that as long as the UN force is not organized in the entire region, the IDF soldiers had better remain.

IDF RETURNS TERRORIST FIRE IN S. LEBANON

TA091519Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 9 Apr 78 p 1 TA

[By Ya'aqov Erez]

[Text] IDF forces have opened fire on the terrorists for the first time since the IDF declared a unilateral cease-fire in southern Lebanon.

Yesterday, close to midnight, terrorist fire was directed from north of the Litani River at an IDF force south of the Raqi'ah bridge. The IDF soldiers returned mortarfire in the direction of the terrorists. The exchange lasted a few minutes.

EHRLICH INTERVIEWED ON DOMESTIC ISSUES, PEACE TALKS

TA071859Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 7 Apr 78 pp 15, 18 TA

[Interview with Finance Minister Simha Ehrlich by David Lipkin and Yosi Peri'el--place not given]

[Excerpt] DAVAR: You announced that after the prime minister's return from the United States the errors of the government's work will be corrected. When will that be?

Answer: The prime minister returned from the United States 10 days ago. I talked with him this week about the issue of explaining the government's policy and we fixed a date for another discussion to be held with the participation of the education minister, who is responsible for the information center. There is a plan for the reorganization of the information center that will base it on more functional elements. The creakings in the government's work sometimes stemmed from deficient information or were the result of too much information.

DAVAR: Why did you accuse the initiators of the officers letter of a putsch?

Answer: It is a rule here not to give the precise quote. I said that citizens may protest against the government's policy; but citizens who gather as officers in the reserve--this smells of a putsch. We held elections 10 months ago and the people had their say and gave us a mandate for 4 years. When we were in the opposition we also organized protest rallies but never in military uniforms.

DAVAR: Will the affair over the election of a president impair the relations within the Likud, in your opinion?

Answer: In all my talks with the prime minister since we chose Dr Rimalt as a presidential candidate we have not discussed the need to obtain better coordination in the Likud. I believe that the entire matter will quickly be forgotten and that the Likud will remain united. Whoever thinks that the affair left serious aftereffects in the Likud indulges nothing but his own reflections. Such a thing is unfounded.

DAVAR: What is your opinion about the defense minister's suggestion to establish a national peace government?

Answer: I am reserved about the unsuitable expression made by my friend and colleague 'Ezer Weizman in his suggestion to establish a national peace government. A national peace government exists and I was happy when Weizman corrected himself and clarified that he meant a national unity government. I am in favor of such a proposal since we are a country under siege and additional elements should be joined to the government out of national, not party, considerations.

DAVAR: What in your assessment will be the future of the political negotiations with Egypt?

Answer: I hope that progress will be made in the talks with Egypt in the coming period. I believe that the contacts with Egypt will be kept up and not severed. The negotiations are long and tiresome and I hope that their conclusion will be positive even if not quickly reached. The United States has conducted negotiations with Panama for 13 years without war. There is still no peace agreement in Europe after the 2d World War. The mercury in the Israeli barometer should not rise too high nor go down too quickly. I hope that we will reach an agreement.

DAVAR: What are your relations with Ministers Weizman and Sharon?

Answer: My relations with 'Ezer Weizman are friendly and good. I agree with him on certain subjects and disagree on others.

My relations with the agriculture minister are like my relations with the other cabinet members. To date I have had no conflicts with Minister Sharon. I do not accept his opinion on certain subjects.

DAVAR: Are you acting, as published in the press, to introduce a change in the makeup of the forces in the government?

Answer: My relations with the prime minister are friendly and based on deep friendship and personal mutual trust. We hold intimate conversations from time to time. All these stories are unfounded speculations.

DAVAR: How much did the operation in Lebanon cost?

Answer: We have not yet received official data from the Defense Ministry. From what I have heard I estimate that the expenses of the operation in Lebanon can be absorbed by the defense budget, which amounts to about 53 billion Israeli pounds.

DAVAR: At the beginning of your service you gained the praises of the press while now you are being fiercely criticized. Have you not thought at one point or another that it is better to abandon the complicated job?

Answer: When I entered my office I knew I was undertaking an ungrateful, hard and complicated job. The praise of the press in the first months surprised me, but not favorably. I did not understand why or what for. I anticipated the moment when they would sober up and begin to speak about the finance minister the way they are now talking about him. I have finally reached this situation. A finance minister who only gains praise--that is a sign that he does not properly fulfill his duties. A finance minister who is attacked--this is an indication that he is fulfilling his task.

I divide the criticism in the press into three categories: criticism of a practical nature; criticism that is written with the full knowledge of being far from the truth; and criticism stemming from ignorance. I am indifferent to the two last kinds of criticism.

AGREEMENT ENDS 82-DAY SEAMEN'S STRIKE

TA072051Y Tel Aviv IDR Radio in Hebrew 1900 GMT 7 Apr 78 TA

[Text] The seamen's strike has ended. Tonight, before the Sabbath, an agreement was signed, thus ending 82 days during which the Israeli merchant fleet was paralyzed. This was the longest strike in the history of the fleet and among the longest in the history of labor relations in Israel.

The representatives of the shipping companies and the seamen's unions signed an agreement tonight. The agreement deals with everything that has to do with the wages the seamen will get until the arbitrator submits his conclusions regarding the seamen's wages. The 1976-77 wage agreement was handed over for arbitration and it seems that the arbitrator's conclusions will be presented in about 2 months. Until then the seamen will work according to the wages agreed upon today in Haifa.

It was learned that the shipping companies agreed to add to the seamen's temporary wages the same percentage which they had offered the seamen before the strike broke out.

IDF ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENT OF NEW DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF

TA071051Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 7 Apr 78 TA

[Text] An official IDF appointment: Maj Gen Yequti'el Adam this morning was appointed as deputy chief of staff and head of the Operations Branch at GHq. Major General Adam will enter his new office this Sunday.

ALLEGED KGB AGENT REPORTEDLY TO LEAVE JERUSALEM

TA071150Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 7 Apr 78 p 5 TA

[By Josef Zuri'el]

[Text] Vladimir (Ribakov), who is defined as the secretary of the Russian church mission in Jerusalem, is leaving the country in about a month and a half, and for the time being it is not known who will replace him.

(Ribakov) has been in Jerusalem for a little more than 2 years. During this time he was the center of rumors and curiosity. He insisted on claiming that his task is procedural but many in Israel ascribed a more senior position to him.

It has lately been written both in the local and foreign press that in the absence of a Russian Embassy in Israel the Russian church delegation in Jerusalem serves as a source for information and meetings of a political and security character, and that the central figure in this mission is Vladimir (Ribakov), as the representative of the KGB in Israel.

It was learned yesterday that he is going to depart from Israel in the coming weeks and that he does not intend to return to Jerusalem.

RAKAH DELEGATION LEAVES FOR TALKS IN MOSCOW

TA071420Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 7 Apr 78 p 2 TA

[Text] A delegation headed by MK Me'ir Wilner is going to Moscow today, at the invitation of the Soviet Communist Party's Central Committee, for talks between the two parties. The delegation is being joined by members of the RAKAH bureau, David Hinin and Jamal Musa. Representatives of the two parties will discuss the situation in the Middle East and Soviet endeavors for a peace settlement in the region.

BANGLADESH

ZIA CONFIRMS ELECTIONS TO BE HELD IN DECEMBER

BK100855Y Dacca Overseas Service in English 0445 GMT 10 Apr 78 BK

[Text] President Zia has said elections to the Parliament will be held in December as scheduled. Talking to newsmen on his return from Tokyo last night, he said the proposed Parliament would be sovereign, that is, it should be able to exercise its full power.

Asked if there would be a presidential or parliamentary form of government, President Zia said there were different views on this. We are holding discussions on this issue, he said. He said the government will lift restrictions on open political activities very soon.

INDIA

DESAI COMMENTS ON PRC RELATIONS, OTHER ISSUES

BK091130Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 9 Apr 78 BK

[Text] The prime minister has said that China has expressed a desire to settle the border dispute through discussion and in a peaceful manner. Mr Morarji Desai was answering questions at a news conference in Bhubaneshwar yesterday. He said the Chinese delegation which visited the country recently was told that until India gets back its territory there can not be complete friendship. The visiting delegation has accepted the position.

Asked about Mrs Gandhi's criticism that the Government of India has not expressed its reaction on the death sentence of the former prime minister of Pakistan, Mr Bhutto, Mr Desai said the government's stand is not to interfere in the internal affairs of any country.

He said the outcome of his recent meeting with the four top leaders of the Janata Party to bring about cohesion in the party is obviously good. He does not think that the bickerings among the leaders of the erstwhile constituents of the Janata Party has soiled the image of the party.

Regarding the cases against the former chief minister, Mrs Nandini Satpathy, Mr Desai said he does not like to interfere in the legal process. About the recent assembly elections, Mr Desai said the Janata Party got more seats in the state assemblies than they had earlier.

On the center-state relationship, the prime minister said the states already enjoy autonomy. He refuted allegations that Orissa is being neglected by the center. He said a shipyard is likely to be established at the Paradeep port.

Asked about the recent large-scale desertion of settlers from Dandakarniya, the prime minister said they must remain where they have been settled. He contradicted a report appearing in a section of the press that his visit to Koraput today was for studying the settlers' problems.

NAXALITES REPORTEDLY BEHIND ANDHRA PRADESH RIOTING

BK081540Y Hong Kong AFP in English 0243 GMT 8 Apr 78 BK

[Text] New Delhi, Apr 8 (AFP)--Young Naxalite communist revolutionaries, who were planning a violent revolution, were behind the violent incidents earlier this week in Andhra Pradesh, south India, SAMACHAR NEWS AGENCY claimed yesterday.

The agency, quoting documents unearthed by the state police, said the revolutionaries, "disillusioned with the soft line" adopted by different Marxist-Leninist groups in the state, are regrouping into a new radical group, to follow a militant line.

In a series of raids on the hideouts of this group, the Revolutionary Youth and Students Federation (Marxist-Leninist), the police have unearthed "a lot of materials and documents" which clearly bring out their plan of action.

Their main idea was to take advantage of any situation and "provoke and organise people's wrath against the establishment and the police," the report said.

"The striking power" of the radical group was very evident during the recent disturbances when as many as 18 police stations were attacked, some of them burnt and many government offices gutted, the report said.

Some 11 people were killed in police firing in the state capital of Hyderabad and some other places of the state during the trouble. The trouble started following the death of a person in police custody last week.

The new group, the first of its kind in India, has radical elements from different Marxist-Leninist groups.

The group has already circulated a number of documents, one of which describes the Janata Party government of Prime Minister Morarji Desai as a "conglomeration of various parties which have no tactics and is not as strong as the dictator Mrs Indira Ghandi." Hence "we cannot get a better occasion than this," it says.

The group has evolved a new pattern of attack including smaller "dalams" (groups) of two or three and at any rate, not exceeding four.

The seized documents point out that the Vietnam struggle and the Palestinian movement became strong only because of small "dalams" which annihilated "class enemies," the report added.

During the 19 months of former Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi's emergency rule her government banned the activities of several extremist communists. She lifted the ban immediately after her party's defeat in last year's general elections, which brought the Janata Party into power.

DANGE, RAO REELECTED TO TOP CPI POSITIONS

BK0916307 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 9 Apr 78 BK

[Text] The National Council of the Communist Party of India [CPI] has unanimously reelected Mr S.A. Dange as chairman and Mr C. Rajeshwar Rao as general secretary. The council, which met in Bhatinda, has also unanimously elected a new Central Secretariat and a Central Executive Committee.

The seven secretaries in the Central Secretariat are: Mr N.K. Krishnan, Mr Bhupesh Gupta, Mr Jagan Nath Sarkar, Mr Indarjit Sinha, Mr N. Rajashekhar Reddy, Mr Indarjit Gupta and Mr M.N. Govindan Nair. Mr T. Mahdawan has been elected treasurer.

CPI-M CONGRESS ENDS; NAMBOODIRIPAD REELECTED

BK080936Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 8 Apr 78 BK

[Text] Mr E.M.S. Namboodiripad has been reelected as general secretary of the Communist Party of India-Marxist [CPI-M]. Elections to the party's National Executive were held at the 10th Congress of the CPI-M at Gopalanagar near Jullundur.

The congress, which ended its 9-day session today, has elected 44 members to the expanded Central Committee of the party which include all the 27 existing members.

PAKISTAN

HAQ DISCUSSES ELECTIONS SCHEDULING IN INTERVIEW

BK100651Y Karachi Overseas Service in English 0030 GMT 10 Apr 78 BK

[Text] The chief of the army staff and chief martial law administrator, Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq, has said the only objective before the nation should be that the ideology of Pakistan was in the forefront and that the people should have clean politics (?devoid) of agitations. He made this observation in an interview published in KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL. [Iranian newspaper]

When asked to comment about his statement that he wanted to create an environment in which elections could be held, he said the envirnoment was now getting better.

Asked if he could hold the elections by the end of the year, he said he had a date in his own mind, but he was not giving it out because the people will say different types of things. The accountability process should take between 4 to 6 months.

The election commission had been given the powers to revise all the electoral rolls because there had been a lot of bungling. This will take another 8 months, and elections could be held in a time thereafter. He said it took 7 years for the former government to create all this; it should take him about 7 months to clean it up.

The chief martial law administrator said the present government had taken some quick measures to stabilize the economy and also made preparations for long-term measures. He said they did not intend to nationalize anything else than what had already been done. Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq said the country's economic situation during the last 6 months had improved considerably.

He said we were grateful to Iran and the shahanshah's personal interest, the support that we had received from him and some other friendly countries. Besides rescheduling of debts, they had received certain other financial help, aid and encouragement and bilateral agreements, particularly with Iran. In reply to a question, he said none of the trips undertaken by him to the Middle East were for economic purposes. These were purely for personal contacts.

BHUTTO APPEALS FOR ADJOURNMENT OF MALFEASANCE TRIAL

BK091719Y Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 8 Apr 78 BK

[Text] The Special Court comprising Mr Justice Shafiur Rahman of the Lahore High Court trying Mr Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto on charges of misappropriation of government funds, rigging of elections and misuse of secret service funds today received a petition on behalf of the accused praying for adjournment of the trial proceedings till the Supreme Court decision on the appeal in the Mohammad Ahmed Khan murder case.

The petition is to be placed before the Special Court for necessary orders.

SRI LANKA

OUTCOME OF HAMEED VISIT TO INDIA REPORTED

BK081115Y Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 8 Apr 78 BK

[Text] An Indian delegation representing both the public and private sectors will be visiting Sri Lanka shortly to study and examine the possibility of India's participation in the Greater Colombo Economic Commission. This is one of the decisions that emerged during official talks between the two countries held in New Delhi earlier this week. The Sri Lanka delegation was led by the foreign minister, Mr A.C.S. Hameed, and the Indian Delegation by the external affairs minister, Mr Vajpayee.

At the talks Mr Hameed drew India's attention to the yawning gap in the trade balance between the two countries. Last year while India's exports to Sri Lanka were a staggering rupees 357 million, imports from Sri Lanka were only to the value of rupees 9 million. The decision to send a mixed team to Sri Lanka was taken on a suggestion by Mr Hameed that one way of narrowing this gap would be for India to invest in the free trade zone and manufacture goods for India's domestic market.

The slow pace of implementation of the repatriation program under the 1954 agreement also came up for discussion. The president had personally addressed a letter to the Indian prime minister, Mr Morarji Desai, on this matter. The two foreign ministers agreed that a high-powered committee of officials from the two countries should be set up immediately in order to expedite the implementation of the agreement. At the talks India also offered to provide teachers for a new medical college in Sri Lanka. Mr Hameed urged the Indian Government to take in a large quota of medical and engineering students from Sri Lanka to Indian universities.

MEDICAL AID RUSHED TO MALDIVES CHOLERA VICTIMS

BK081118Y Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 8 Apr 78 BK

[Text] The Sri Lanka Government has rushed medical supplies and vaccine to the Maldives following an outbreak of cholera there. An agency report said that some 40 islands were affected and that more than 100 people had died.

Airport authorities in Sri Lanka have been asked to be vigilant about passengers arriving from the Maldives. The director of health services has advised them to isolate suspected cases and report to the health department.

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